

## 2 UNIFIL soldiers wounded

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen shot and wounded two French U.N. soldiers in mainly west Beirut Friday, apparently trying to steal their car, a U.N. spokesman said. Three French soldiers with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were intercepted by the gunmen who shot at their car, slightly injuring two of them, the spokesman said. In South Lebanon, meanwhile, a French UNIFIL soldier has been missing since early Tuesday, when he left his post near Tair Debbah village, east of Tyre, UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel said. Private Jacques Gerbaud took his rifle but no personal possessions, Goksel said, and searches by UNIFIL troops, Lebanese security forces and villagers had failed to trace him. Security sources said Gerbaud left a note saying he was unhappy with his personal life.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation  
الجزيرة عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية

## 28 killed in Indian explosions

NEW DELHI (AP) — At least 28 people were killed and scores wounded in a series of explosions in northern India on Friday that appeared to be a coordinated operation by Sikh terrorists, police and news reports said. In most of the cases, the explosives were concealed in transistor radios, police said. Among the targets were several buses and a train. At least 14 people were killed and 60 injured in explosions in different parts of the Indian capital Friday night, police said. Of those, five died when bombs went off in two buses at the city's inter-state bus terminal. H.C. Jadav, assistant commissioner of police, told reporters at the scene that the explosives were hidden in transistor radios left on the buses by two Sikh men. The two Sikhs got off the buses minutes before the explosions, he said. Bombs were reported from 11 different colonies in the city. All exit points from the capital were sealed.

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## King congratulates Czech leader

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a congratulatory cable to Czechoslovak President Gustav Husak on the occasion of the Czechoslovak Liberation Day. The King expressed hope that bonds between the two countries are bolstered and wished the Czechoslovak people continued progress and prosperity.

## Explosion damages NATO pipeline

OSNABRUECK, West Germany (R) — An explosion damaged a NATO pipeline carrying aircraft fuel near Osnabrueck early Friday and West German federal police experts were called in to investigate, a police spokesman said. The pipeline, which supplies air bases mainly in West Germany, has been the target of frequent attacks in past months by leftist extremists but the spokesman said it was too early to determine whether Friday's blast was caused by a bomb. The most spectacular attack on the network occurred in Belgium last December when a group called the Fighting Communist Cells caused six almost simultaneous explosions at various points.

## Expelled U.S. envoys leave Poland

WARSAW (R) — The U.S. embassy said two of its diplomats were expelled from Poland Friday after they attended an anti-government demonstration. Four Americans were obliged to leave five days ago on similar grounds. William Harwood, a first secretary at the embassy in Warsaw, took a flight Friday for West Berlin and David Hopper, consul in Krakow, left for New York. Poland accused the pair of taking part in a demonstration by supporters of the banned Solidarity trade union on May 1 at a steel mill near Krakow.

## Von Weizsaecker plans Israel visit

TEL AVIV (AP) — West German President Richard von Weizsaecker plans to visit Israel in the fall in what will be the first visit here by a German chief of state, the president's office announced Friday. Mr. Von Weizsaecker told President Chaim Herzog of his planned visit in a personal message, the announcement said.

## S. Asia meeting opens without Sri Lanka

THIMPU, Bhutan (AP) — A major meeting of South Asian nations opened Friday in this Himalayan kingdom, marred by the absence of the Sri Lankan delegation which was abruptly called back for urgent consultations over the island's latest dispute with India. Bhutanese Foreign Secretary Dasho T. Tobgyel told reporters that the Sri Lankan delegation had been recalled home from the Indian port of Calcutta but that he was still hopeful that Sri Lanka would take part in the main event — the meeting of foreign ministers on Monday.

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# China pledges support for Jordan-PLO moves

## U.S., Israel biggest obstacles to peace efforts, Zhao tells joint delegation

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Writer  
with agency dispatches

PEKING — China pledged its support Friday for joint moves by Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) towards a just settlement of the Palestinian problem and the idea of an international conference on the Middle East as a forum to achieve such a settlement.

The Chinese news agency, Xinhua, reporting on a meeting between a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation headed by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang, said that the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO was a new move towards a "fair and reasonable" solution to the Middle East conflict.

China supports the Palestinian and Arab people in winning their national rights by all means, including political negotiation, Mr. Zhao told the delegation, which arrived in the Chinese capital Thursday. "A peacefully negotiated solution to the Middle East question would be the best," being in keeping with the aspirations of the Palestinian and Arab peoples as well as with the trend of the times," Mr. Zhao was quoted as saying.

# Reagan ends Europe tour with reiteration of call for summit

LISBON (Agencies) — After criticising the Soviet Union as a threat to world peace throughout his 10-day European trip, U.S. President Ronald Reagan stressed before departing for home Friday that he would like to meet with new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"I think there'd be a lot to talk about," Mr. Reagan told reporters at the airport. "I just happen to believe it's time we started talking to each other instead of talking about each other."

Regarding a sore point in relations between the two countries, Mr. Reagan said he thought compliance with the unratified SALT II treaties was "one-sided" on the part of the United States. But he said he would decide later whether to continue complying, and would notify the Soviets before breaking the agreement.

"There's considerable evidence now that that (compliance with the unratified treaty) has been rather one-sided," he said. "If it has been, then there's no need for us to continue."

"But whether we do or not, that's a decision to be made down the road."

The SALT-II treaty, signed by

state. The agreement envisages an international conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices, with the participation of all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, to negotiate a peaceful settlement based on the land in exchange for peace formula.

The Jordan-PLO agreement, "reflecting good faith for a settlement on the part of Jordan and the PLO," would help win international sympathy, "including that of Americans and Israelis, as well as being a form of political pressure on the United States and Israel," Mr. Zhao told the delegation on Friday.

"We always respect and support any programme worked out by the PLO, Jordan and other Arab countries through consultation, provided it is in keeping with the interests of the Arab and Palestinian peoples," he said.

The U.S. and Israel have ruled out their participation in the proposed international conference. While Washington says that the conference, which will bring the Soviet Union into the fore of Middle East diplomacy, will serve "no useful purpose", Israeli leaders contend that the conference will be turned into "a forum for attacks against Israel."

In talks with the joint delegation on Friday, Mr. Zhao

(Continued on page 3)

tour during which he faced controversy in West Germany and protests in Spain but was welcomed as a friend and ally by the Portuguese government.

The U.S. president, whose last engagement before leaving Lisbon was to watch a display by the Portuguese riding school, held talks with Prime Minister Mario Soares Thursday and President Antonio Ramalho Eanes on Wednesday.

In contrast to the controversy surrounding his visit to a war cemetery in Bitburg, West Germany, and to anti-U.S. protests which marked his trip to Spain, opposition to his two-day stay in Portugal has been relatively low-key.

Some 1,000 people took part in a rally in Lisbon organised by left-wing unions and pressure groups to coincide with his arrival. A similar number of protesters destroyed an effigy of the U.S. president in a square of the capital Thursday night.

A walk-out by communist deputies failed to affect Mr. Reagan's delivery of his address to the Portuguese parliament in which he hailed democracy as the key to peace and progress.

Mr. Reagan left Portugal after a



Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang embraces PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who arrived in Peking Thursday at the head of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which held talks with Mr. Zhao Friday (AP wirephoto)

# Battles reerupt in Beirut amid conflicting Falangist signals

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Gunbattles erupted in central Beirut Friday as Lebanese factions and Syria took a wait-and-see stance toward the election of the alleged mastermind of the 1982 Palestinian massacre as leader of Lebanon's Falangist "Lebanese Forces" militia.

The roar of shell explosions echoed through the city as militiamen battled anew across the "green line" that separated mostly Christian east Beirut from the mainly Muslim west side.

Police said the civil war antagonists also blasted each others' positions along the five-kilometre green line with rocket-propelled grenades, ending a lull that prevailed since midnight. All crossings remained closed between the two halves of the Lebanese capital.

The overnight lull followed the election of Elie Hobeika as president of the ruling executive committee of the "Lebanese Forces," the coalition of mostly Christian militias that fought the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and the Shi'ite Amal movement in Lebanon's 10-year civil war.

Neither the Syrian government nor PSP or Amal commands publicly reacted to the Falangist reshuffle that made Mr. Hobeika outrank Samir Geagea, the pro-Israeli commander who seized control of the "Lebanese Forces" March 12.

Dr. Geagea retained his post as chief of staff but Mr. Hobeika, who previously served as the

"Lebanese Forces" intelligence chief, is now the man who calls the shots in the organisation.

"We shall wait and see what the change will mean on the ground," said a source at the "National Democratic Front," which groups the PSP and pro-Syrian Lebanese factions. The source, who spoke to the AP, declined to be named.

However, the expectations seemed to be short-lived when the "Lebanese Forces" foreign relations chief issued a tough statement Friday describing the PSP and its allies as "the new Nazis" and charging that they were bent on annihilating the country's Christians.

The statement also lashed out at Syria for trying in the past "by trickery or violence, to destroy our city and our people."

The statement by Charles Ghossein was among the most uncompromising the "Lebanese Forces" has made since the rebellion staged by Dr. Geagea in March.

Mr. Ghossein's statement came despite a conciliatory declaration by Mr. Hobeika.

Mr. Hobeika, widely accused of involvement in the 1982 massacre of hundreds of Palestinians in Beirut's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, urged dialogue with other factions.

The Beirut newspaper As Safir said Mr. Hobeika, who denies involvement in the Sabra and Shatila massacre, would soon close down the "Lebanese Forces" office in occupied Jerusalem and an Israeli office functioning in the

Christian suburb of Tabarja north of Beirut.

He also plans to withdraw "Lebanese Forces" fighters serving with the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" militia that controls border enclave along Israel's northern frontier and release rival fighters currently held by the "Lebanese Forces," As Safir said.

"Lebanese Forces" spokesman withheld comment on As Safir's report. But knowledgeable sources in the organisation, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Hobeika's next move would be the termination of the "Lebanese Forces" role in politics.

In his post-election statement Thursday, Mr. Hobeika appealed to Lebanon's ex-President Suleiman Frangieh, a Maronite leader, to "forget the past in a Christian spirit of forgiveness" in order to close Christian ranks.

Mr. Frangieh, a staunch ally of Syria, has been at loggerheads with the "Lebanese Forces" since the murder of his elder son Tony, his wife and three-year-old daughter along with 30 guards at the family's summer villa in Ehden, north Lebanon, in 1978.

Mr. Frangieh held Dr. Geagea personally responsible for the Ehden slaughter and Mr. Frangieh's "Giants" militia had since banned any "Lebanese Forces" militiamen from northern Lebanese regions.

Fears grow of all-out Lebanon civil war, page 4

# Shultz begins talks in Israel

By Salameh B. Ne'matt  
with agencies

AMMAN — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz began Middle East peace talks with Israeli leaders Friday, after voicing his country's total commitment to and "eternal support" for the Jewish state.

Following a three-hour meeting with Mr. Shultz, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir told reporters that Israel rejected a compromise U.S. proposal to include members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating team.

"I told Shultz there will be no negotiations with the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) in any form," Mr. Shamir said. "I said clearly we will not agree to talk with the PNC. They are a part of the PLO."

"The PNC decides the policies of the PLO. You cannot differentiate between the two," the Associated Press quoted Mr. Shamir as saying.

U.S. State Department deputy spokesman Edward Djerejian said Tuesday that the Reagan administration was considering a meeting between U.S. officials and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation including members of the PNC.

Mr. Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner, told reporters after Friday's meeting that Mr. Shultz had stressed that the United States sought to encourage direct talks between Israel and its neighbours. But he said there was no discussion of which Palestinians might be acceptable to Israel.

"We have not reached the stage where we are mentioning names. We are not suggesting names to the Americans," Mr. Pazner said. "We say only that we will accept no person who is a direct or indirect member of the PLO," the AP quoted him as saying.

Mr. Shultz, who arrived in Israel from Lisbon, Portugal, is scheduled to fly Sunday for Egypt and Jordan after more talks with Israeli officials. He was scheduled to hold official talks with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres Friday night.

The U.S. official's visit to the region follows a two-week tour last month by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy whose visit appeared to have yielded no solution to the problem of Palestinian participation in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Renewed diplomatic moves in the region came after an agreement reached between Jordan and the PLO last February on joint action to reach a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Shultz's trip, his first to the Middle East in nearly two years, follows a series of visits to Washington by Arab leaders who urged the U.S. for a more active role in the area.

At a press conference he held in Lisbon before embarking on his tour Thursday, Mr. Shultz said Palestinian participation in peace efforts was essential.

Asked about possible participation by PNC members, Mr. Shultz said: "As far as who will be part of what we hope at some point will be a Jordanian delegation with Palestinian... participation. We have to discuss that with our friends in the region and try to find our way to basically individual names and people."

He said Palestinian participation was essential if the negotiations were to be successful, but added: "I am not going to talk about it in terms of categories. It will be a question of discussing individuals."

Shortly after his arrival in Israel Friday, Mr. Shultz, speaking at a memorial of the Jewish holocaust affirmed the United States' commitment to Israel.

"Israel is the true witness to the holocaust and the true symbol of the victory of the good over the evil. That is why Israel must endure and that is why the American people are forever committed to Israel's security," Mr. Shultz said.

# Swiss swimming pool tragedy kills 12

USTER, Switzerland (R) — Twelve people including six schoolchildren died Thursday night when a concrete ceiling crashed down on bathers at a swimming pool, the mayor of the Swiss town of Uster said Friday.

The ceiling collapsed in virtually one piece and covered the pool like an air-tight lid. Only by the diving board was there an escape route for a lucky few who struggled to safety.

Most of the victims drowned but some were crushed to death by the concrete slab weighing about 160 tonnes, Mayor Walter Flach told a news conference.

Some 350 rescuers worked through the night, breaking through the concrete with drills and pumping out water. Mr. Flach said no survivors were found beneath the fallen ceiling.

The pool Friday was still a scene of devastation, looking like a bomb site as workers continued to clear away the rubble.

Between 30 and 40 people were at the swimming pool here in the suburbs of Zurich when the accident occurred at 1820 GMT Thursday night. The dead were residents of Uster and surrounding villages. Two women are still in hospital.



Remains of the ceiling scattered everywhere in the basin of an indoor swimming pool in Uster, Switzerland. The ceiling collapsed Thursday night killing 12 people (AP wirephoto)

pool in 1971, said the chrome-nickel-steel alloy supports carrying the 800-square-metre ceiling had rusted.

"I cannot explain that. It should not happen," he told the news conference. Mr. Waedenswiler added that there were probably similar constructions at swimming pools all over Switzerland.

Engineer Ernst Waedenswiler, who led the construction of the

# Sri Lankan rebels kill 5 policemen

COLOMBO (AP) — Tamil activists fighting for a separate state in north Sri Lanka inflicted heavy damage on police in the northwestern coastal town of Mannar Friday when they launched a fierce attack using mortars and rockets, police said here.

A senior police officer in Colombo said the bodies of five policemen had been recovered Friday from the debris.

Police said the rebels preceded their well-planned attack by knocking off the telecommunications system in the arid Mannar district, which is populated by Tamils and Muslims.

"They also blew-up the causeway between Mannar Island and the mainland to ensure that getting reinforcements to the beleaguered police on the island was difficult," a senior police officer said.

He said all arms and ammunition in the police station had been captured by the attacking force of an estimated 100 fighters.

Police said in addition to the five dead, two more policemen were feared abducted and seven had not been accounted for.

# Israel, PFLP-GC to swap prisoners

DAMASCUS (R) — A Palestinian commando group is to exchange three Israeli soldiers next week for 1,800 Palestinians and Lebanese held by Israel, informed Palestinian sources said Friday.

The sources told Reuters the deal had been agreed indirectly by Israel and the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), through the mediation of the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The sources said the PFLP-GC would free three Israeli soldiers it captured during Israel's invasion of Lebanon nearly three years ago. They named the Israelis as Henry Sha'i, Youssef Kroub and Nassim Salem but did not mention their ranks.

In return, Israel would release 1,800 Palestinians and Lebanese who were held in the Ansar detention camp in southern Lebanon until it was recently closed down, the sources said.

The swap would start on Wednesday and would take four days, they added.

It would involve three stages — in Geneva, Jerusalem and Qun-

etra in the Golan Heights, the sources said without giving further details of how it would be carried out.

A similar exchange took place in November 1983, when six Israeli soldiers were freed by the big Fateh Palestinian group in return for 4,500 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners held by the Israelis.

However, Israel was accused of withholding a number of prominent Palestinian activists, whose names were originally included in a list prepared by the Israelis and the ICRC. Reports said that the Israelis secretly transferred these prisoners from Tel Aviv airport moments before they were to be flown out.

The ICRC supported the charges and said a number of Palestinians included in the list were missing when a final count was taken. Israel has refused the charges.

Among those reportedly transferred from the airport at the last minute includes Ziad Abu Ain, a Palestinian youth who was deported from the U.S. to Israel where he is undergoing a jail sentence for an alleged bomb attack near Lake Tiberias.



## Militiamen recover mass grave south of Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Muslim militiamen have recovered at least six badly decomposed human bodies they had found at the bottom of a dried-up well in the coastal village of Jiyeh, south of Beirut, witnesses said.

None of the bodies has been identified and the witnesses said the extent of decomposition indicated the deaths had occurred many months ago.

The body of a man in police uniform, apparently killed more recently, was discovered in a stone tomb in a Christian cemetery nearby, they added. The body was not in a coffin.

The state-owned National News Agency, which operates from mainly Muslim west Beirut, said 20 bodies were recovered from the well in Jiyeh.

It said two dismembered bodies had been found in another well further south and a few kilometres inland.

The second well was near a deserted house with iron bars and sandbags over the windows, suggesting it had been used as a prison, the agency said.

Druze and Shi'ite Muslim forces captured Jiyeh, a mixed village of Christians and Muslims, from a Falangist militia when they overran areas east and north of Sidon last month.

Meanwhile snipers Thursday foiled efforts to reopen a single "Green Line" crossing and ten-

tatively reunite east and west Beirut after a week of factional fighting.

A police spokesman said two cars dashed over the "Museum Crossing" after it was officially declared open at 7:00 am (0400 GMT) under a ceasefire agreement, but no more risked the journey before it shut again less than four hours later.

Rifle shots cracked out at mid-morning over the 400 metres no-man's-land between Falangists and opposition barricades at the crossing's eastern and western ends.

Workmen at both ends gave up trying to clear earthworks, halting efforts to reopen the crossing, police said.

The setback indicated continued tension between opposition militias holding west Beirut and Falangist militiamen and troops on the eastern side of the Green Line.

It appeared a setback to efforts to restore calm after fighting and shelling that has killed nearly 70 people and wounded hundreds in the worst sectarian fighting in Beirut for nearly a year.

The rest of the Green Line was

quiet despite sniping, but there was no effort to open five other crossings. A few cars braved the snipers to sneak across by side roads, police said.

Pro-Syrian Beirut newspapers forecast a relaxation of tension in the next few days, indicating that Syria was pressing for a political solution to the crisis.

But sources close to Syrian-backed militias expected continued flare-ups of fighting until Samir Geagea, the hardline Falangist militia leader, was ousted.

The Falangist "Voice of Lebanon" radio has said opposition and pro-Syrian Palestinian fighters are massing troops and guns in the central mountains dominating Falangist heartlands down to the coast north of Beirut.

Reporters have been unable to see the guns, but their presence would mean Geagea's "Lebanese Forces" militia is virtually surrounded and all Falangist-held territory exposed to possible artillery bombardment.

The opposition sources said Syria was determined to oust Geagea, who seized control of the militia in March, and restore President Amin Gemayel to control of the Christian community.

Bere Geagea's "uprising" Mr. Gemayel appeared ready to pursue a pro-Syrian policy and activate political reforms to give the opposition a greater share of political power.



PRESS CONFERENCE: Abdulsalam Jal-Sadan — during a press conference in Khartoum — head of the Libyan delegation (right) visiting Thursday (AP wirephoto).

## European Parliament slashes aid to Turkey

STRASBOURG, France (Agencies) — The European Parliament has recommended cutting 27 million European Currency Units (\$18 million) from the European Commission's financial aid to Turkey.

The parliament voted a "proposed modification" Thursday to the EC's 1985 budget saying the appropriations, which are part of the Community's third financial protocol with Turkey, should not be paid "to a country which persistently flouts democracy and human rights."

For the same reason, the parliament voted to recommend a freeze on aid payments to Ankara under other financial agreements.

The "proposed modifications," unlike other amendments to the budget by parliament, are not binding on the EC's Council of Budget Ministers which adopts the final measure.

The vote came during the legislature's first reading of the EC's 1985 budget. The parliament had rejected the whole budget last December in protest against the member governments' failure to appropriate enough money for the common agricultural policy.

The finance measure was sent Thursday to the Council of Budget Ministers for adoption. It will return to the assembly in June if the council rejects other amendments passed by the parliament.

Meanwhile, Turkish martial law commanders have reduced the maximum period for detention of a suspect to 30 from 45 days from Thursday, partly answering a complaint from European human rights campaigners.

The law, published in the Official Gazette, said suspects may normally be held for 15 days, with a 15-day extension under special circumstances. They must then appear before a judge within 48 hours.

## Oman discussing F-16 purchase, U.S. aide says

WASHINGTON (R) — Oman has been discussing buying U.S. F-16 jet fighter planes but no decisions have been made, Reagan administration officials have said.

Industry sources said Oman was likely to be weighing the purchase of the single-engine General Dynamics planes against the twin-engine Panavia Tornado fighter built by a British, French and Italian consortium.

The officials said Oman, occupying a key position on the Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf is viewed as a close U.S. friend and thus is eligible to buy F-16s.

The planes would augment Oman's fleet of 20 British-French Jaguar strike fighters. No number was set for the possible purchase, but a squadron of 16 to 18 was considered likely.

F-16s cost between \$15 to \$20 million each, depending on how advanced the model.

Other countries in the region already flying F-16s are Israel, Egypt and Pakistan. The U.S. Air Force is buying 2,200.

The industry sources noted that Oman has long had military and political ties with Britain, and this might give an advantage to the West European Tornado over the F-16.

A Briton heads the Omani Air Force and a British firm is under contract to maintain Omani aircraft, the sources added.

But in recent years, U.S.-Omani ties have also become close, with Oman granting the United States access to ports and airfields in case of a crisis in the Gulf region.

This year the United States is providing Oman with \$40 million in military assistance through the sale of such items as helicopters and anti-aircraft missiles.

Planned U.S. aid for next year has been increased to \$78.5 million, to include the sale of air-to-air missiles and transport/tanker aircraft.

Meanwhile Saudi Finance and Economy Minister Sheikh Mohammed Ali Abal Khalil met West

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher Wednesday for talks on economic ties, the West German Foreign Ministry said.

The meeting came amid reports, denied by the government, that the two countries are ready to negotiate an arms deal worth close to \$2 billion.

A terse statement from the Foreign Ministry said Mr. Genscher's talks centered on economic relations with Saudi Arabia, but it mentioned no specific projects.

A government spokesman said the Saudi minister met Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The government quickly denied a report by the tabloid newspaper Bild which said Bonn had decided to sell the Saudis "at least five billion marks worth of modern weapons."

"The report has no basis whatsoever," a statement said.

But Bild repeated that sources in the Federal Security Council said it decided last week to offer the Saudis sophisticated weapons including the Gepard light tank, the Roland anti-aircraft missile, and the Marder fighting vehicle.

"The decision could not be postponed any longer because important negotiations with the Saudis were imminent," the paper quoted a council source as saying.

The government of Israel has expressed alarm at persistent reports over the past two years that Bonn and Riyadh were discussing a major arms deal.

Delivery of German weapons to an enemy of the Jewish state would be "morally repugnant as well as a severe blow" to German-Israeli relations, the Israelis said.

In a visit to Saudi Arabia in October 1983, Mr. Kohl ruled out sales of the Leopard-2 main battle tank but reserved the right to sell defensive weapons systems to the Saudis.

During a subsequent visit to Israel in January last year, Mr. Kohl said he was under "very urgent" pressure from the Israelis not to sell any military hardware to the Saudis.

## Suicide bomb kills 3 at entrance to Israeli zone

TEL AVIV (R) — Three people were killed in an apparent suicide bombing Thursday when a suitcase packed with explosives and carried by a woman blew up near the entrance to Israel's security zone in South Lebanon, an Israeli military source said.

The source said troops of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia spotted the woman, with the suitcase approaching their checkpoint at Hatzbaya, 16 kilometres north of the Israeli border.

He said that when they approached her, the suitcase exploded, killing the woman, one soldier and his wife.

Israel has imposed strict security measures in the border zone in an effort to foil suicide car bombers, who have killed more than a dozen Israelis this year.

Night travel has been banned and the army has said there must be two people in every vehicle, which must travel in convoys of two.

It has dug a trench along the border deep enough to prevent suicide bombers from driving across the frontier.

Palestinian commandos killed Wednesday when their boat was

sunk by the Israeli Navy belonged to the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, a Fatah statement has said.

The statement was distributed to news agencies in Beirut with a photograph of four men in camouflage fatigues posing in front of a Palestinian flag and a portrait of Mr. Arafat.

It said the commandos, from the "Sabra and Shatila Martyrs Unit", had fought Israeli vessels with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades off the Israeli coast.

"They inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy and fought bravely until martyrdom," the statement declared. It said the commandos had set out at dawn Wednesday but did not reveal their departure point.

An Israeli military spokesman said Wednesday an Israeli Navy vessel sank a rubber dinghy off the South Lebanese port of Tyre, killing five commandos.

Two weeks ago an Israeli missile boat sank a ship carrying 28 Palestinian commandos more than 160 kilometres from the Mediterranean coast. Eight people aboard were captured and the rest were presumed drowned.

## Zaire president arrives in Israel on Sunday

TEL AVIV (R) — President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, one of Israel's few friends in black Africa, arrives on Sunday for a six-day visit expected to focus on Zaire's aid needs and to re-emphasize Israel's desire to renege ties with other African states.

Mr. Mobutu has received agricultural, medical and military aid since renewing relations three years ago and is expected to ask for more. A prime minister, an Israeli Foreign Ministry official said.

Zaire's decision to re-establish ties, on the eve of the 1973 Middle East war, sparked Israeli hopes of ending its diplomatic isolation on the continent.

Israeli leaders have held secret talks with officials of other African states and newspapers here periodically report that res-

umption of diplomatic relations, notably with the Ivory Coast, are imminent.

But so far only Liberia's President Samuel Doe, eager for military aid to fend off Libya, followed Mr. Mobutu's lead.

In the 1960s, Israel maintained strong links with black Africa, dispatching thousands of agricultural experts and offering military training and equipment.

Mr. Mobutu, commander-in-chief of the Congolese army in 1963, joined his soldiers in a three-week paratroop course.

But under pressure from Egypt and on the promise of Arab oil aid, he was the first to break relations with Israel in 1973.

Only Lesotho, Malawi and Swaziland among black African nations maintained diplomatic ties with Israel.

## Most Israelis oppose inquiry into Lebanon war, poll says

TEL AVIV (AP) — A two-thirds majority of the Israeli public opposes setting up a commission to investigate the Lebanon war, according to a public opinion poll published Friday.

Mina Zemach, the head of the Dahaf Polling Organisation, said 64 per cent of the people polled said they opposed the inquiry, while 33 per cent said they supported it and three per cent said they had no opinion.

She said the poll, published in the Yediot Achronot newspaper Friday, was carried out among 776 adult Israeli Jews at the beginning of this month and had a three per cent margin of error.

The question asked by the pollsters was: "In light of the public dispute about whether or not one should set up a commission of inquiry on the Lebanon war, are you for or against its formation?" she said.

There has been fierce public debate about whether to hold a state inquiry into the government decisions on the invasion of Lebanon in June 1982 and the progress of the war, the main subject of the inquiry would be the allegations that former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon deliberately misled the rest of the government about the aims and extent of the war.

## Collett apparently being held in Beirut

UNITED NATIONS (R) — British reporter Alec Collett, kidnapped in Lebanon on March 25, is apparently being held in Beirut, according to a videotaped interview with him that his captors mailed to his wife in New York.

"I returned to Beirut on the 25th of March and I've been here since then," he said during the 4½-minute interview.

The cassette was sent from Switzerland and shown Thursday to reporters at the United Nations, where Mr. Collett, 63, has worked for many years.

He was seized south of Beirut while on a short-term writing assignment for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

A previously unknown "Islamic Revolutionary Socialist" group has claimed to be holding him. But there was no clue to the

identity of his captors during the interview, conducted by a man off-camera speaking Arabic-accented English and filmed against a blank background.

Mr. Collett, looking gaunt but clean-shaven, appeared to be wearing a dark blue tracksuit with white stripes.

He said his treatment so far had been quite good. He was "very well fed, probably too well-fed" since he was not getting his usual exercise.

He received two or three meals a day and a vacuum flask of tea that lasted him most of the day.

"I have water supplied whenever I need it. I have a palliative to sleep on and I get lighting whenever I need it," he said.

He was doing a lot of writing and trying his hand at fiction for the first time.

He found he had "quite a talent" for this, "presumably because he had plenty of time to let his imagination run riot, which as a journalist of course one can't do, or at least shouldn't do," he added in a brief flash of humour.

At another point he described his conditions as "acceptable, allowing for the constraints... I would like to be somewhere else of course but I don't have any choice at the present time."

Mr. Collett said he had no access to a radio or television and had no reading material. "I would like to be able to read. I'm not able to at the present time, except my own work."

He said he had been receiving medicine regularly for a diabetic condition. He was also occasionally getting Vitamin B, and Lomolot — an anti-diarrhoea drug — when he needed it. He had asked for some other drugs, which he did not name, but these were not forthcoming.

Referring to his work for UNRWA in southern Lebanon, he said he had visited a number of the agency's refugee camps and offices in Tyre and Sidon.

At Sidon, he said, there was a "tremendous difference" once the Israelis withdrew. He was most recently in Tyre on March 25, when the Israelis were still occupying the town, and the "situation was not very happy there... I don't know what it is at the present time."

Mr. Collett sent his love to his wife and son in New York, as well as to another son in California and a daughter in London.

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#### MAIN CHANNEL

06:00 Morning Programme

06:25 Children's Programme

06:35 English Teaching

06:50 First Aid

07:00 Koran

07:10 Cartoons

07:35 Children's Programme

07:45 Documentary

07:50 Candid Camera

08:00 Local Programme

08:15 News Programme

08:30 Art

08:45 News in Arabic

08:50 Local Programme on our Institutions

09:00 Arabic Series

09:15 Programme Review

09:30 News Programme

09:45 Art

09:50 News in Arabic

09:55 Local Programme on our Institutions

10:00 Arabic Series

10:15 Programme Review

10:30 News Programme

10:45 Art

10:50 News in Arabic

10:55 Local Programme on our Institutions

11:00 Arabic Series

11:15 Programme Review

11:30 News Programme

11:45 Art

11:50 News in Arabic

11:55 Local Programme on our Institutions

12:00 Arabic Series

12:15 Programme Review

12:30 News Programme

#### BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Grand National

07:45 Financial News 07:55

Reflections 08:00 News Summary

08:05 News Summary 08:30 About Britain

08:45 The World Today 09:00 News

09:30 Album Time 10:00 World

News 10:05 24 Hours: News Summary

10:30 From the Weeklies 10:45 Net

work U.K. 11:00 World News 11:05

Reflections 11:15 A Jolly Good Show

12:00 World News 12:30 British Press

Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30

Financial News 12:40 Look Ahead

12:45 Romantic Piano 13:00 News

Summary: Grand National Preview

13:15 Letter from America 13:30 People

and Politics 14:00 News About

Britain 14:15 About Britain 14:30

Meridian 15:00 Radio Newsweek 15:45

Sports Round-up 16:00 World News

16:05 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30

Network U.K. 16:45 Saturday Special

17:00 News Summary, Music Now

17:30 Album Time 18:00 Radio News

week 18:15 Saturday Special 19:00

World News 19:05 Commentary 19:15

Saturday Special 20:00 News Summary

20:45 Sports Round-up 21:00 News

desk 21:30 Play of the Week: Indian

Summer 22:00 News Summary: Louise

and the Puppet Man 23:00 World News

23:05 24 Hours: News Summary 23:30

Jazz for the Asking 24:00 News Sum-

mary: to Suite of Ourselves 00:15

What's New 00:30 People and Politics

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1360 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz

06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 06:30

News Summary/VOA Morning 07:00

News 07:10 VOA Morning 07:30 News

Summary/VOA Morning 08:00 News

08:10 Clocup 08:30 News Summary

VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 VOA

Morning 09:30 News Summary/VOA

Morning 10:00 News 10:10 This Week

10:30 Press Conference USA 19:00

News 19:10 American Viewpoints

19:30 Special English News Features

20:00 News 20:10 Weekend 21:00

News 21:10 Close-up 21:30 Special

English News and Features 22:00 News

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### TODAY'S EVENT



## Rydbek departs following discussions with Rifai on UNRWA's budget deficit

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) Commissioner General Olof Rydbeck left Amman Friday after a three-day visit to Jordan.

Mr. Rydbeck Thursday held talks with Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai during which Mr. Rifai expressed Jordan's concern over the recurrent deficit in the budget of the agency due to the delay by some countries in sending in their contributions.

Mr. Rifai said that the Jordanian government can by no means accept any reduction in services offered to the Palestinian refugees due to this deficit, which has already forced UNRWA to make cuts in its general expenditure budget for the current year.

The prime minister discussed with Mr. Rydbeck diplomatic

steps to be taken and contacts to be made with other concerned nations to urge them to offer contributions to UNRWA in order to enable the agency to carry out its humanitarian mission.

Mr. Rifai earlier received a letter from representatives of UNRWA staff in Jordan protesting against UNRWA's policies concerning services to the refugees. They appealed to the prime minister to take all possible measures to help solve the problem.

These representatives staged a sit-in at UNRWA's headquarters in Amman on Wednesday to protest the reduction of services and a spokesman for the representatives said that the sit-in was meant to be a show of support for Mr. Rydbeck's efforts to raise funds for the agency so that it could maintain its services to Palestinian refugees.

## Two Egyptians hanged for murder of woman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two convicted Egyptians were hanged in Amman at dawn Friday for the murder of a Jordanian woman. Fathi Abbas Mohammed, 28, and Sayed Ibrahim Abdul-Mutti, 30, had been sentenced to death by hanging for killing Wadha Salem Maayta on July 11, 1982 in Zarqa.

One of the murderers, Fathi, had apparently had an affair with his neighbour, a girl identified only as H.A. Sh, who was an associate in the crime. According to local press reports the girl agreed to leave her husband and to accompany Fathi to Egypt where they would get married.

In collusion with their friend

Ibrahim the pair thought of choosing a victim to take her to the husband's house where she would be burnt together with the room, so that the girl's husband, children and the police would think that H.A. Sh had been burnt to death.

On July 11, 1982 the three took their neighbour Wadha and her son to a new rented house in Al Zawahreh quarter, where they killed the woman before carrying her body to the house of H.A. Sh where the woman was burnt. Her two-year-old child was taken to Amman where his body was disposed of in an area near Marka where he was later found by public security patrols.

## Rifai receives JJA president

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai Thursday received the Jordanian Journalists Association President Mahmoud Al Kayed who briefed Mr. Rifai on the conditions of journalists and conveyed to him some of the demands of the journalists, particularly in relation to housing. Mr. Rifai expressed his appreciation to press and pressmen and the government's readiness to provide every possible aid and assistance to this important sector.

## Greek archbishop due in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Archbishop Sarofim of Greece arrives in Amman on May 17 for a visit expected to last several days during which he will be received by His Majesty King Hussein and senior officials. Archbishop Sarofim will pay a visit to the city of Jerusalem and holy places in the occupied West Bank and meet the patriarch of Jerusalem Theodoros.

## Zhao meets joint delegation

(Continued from page 1)

"noted that Israel and the United States were the main obstacles to a peaceful solution to the Middle East question," the Chinese news agency said.

Any such solution would "first of all depend on the unity and struggle of the PLO and Arab countries," the Chinese premier said, adding that the maximum possible Arab support for the Jordan-PLO strategy was necessary to make it a success.

Mr. Zhao noted that the Jordan-PLO strategy enshrines the Arab peace plan adopted in Fez, Morocco, in 1982, and described it as a wise move. Apparently, he was referring to the Arab unanimity in adopting the resolution which called for the creation of an independent Palestinian state in the now-Israeli occupied territories and implicitly recognised the Jewish state by calling for the right of "all states in the region" to live in peace and security.

Mr. Zhao added that China appreciated and supported the proposal by Jordan and the PLO to convene an international conference on the Middle East.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Majali, who briefed the Chinese leader on the Jordan-PLO agreement and the latest developments in the Middle East, expressed "appreciation for the Chinese stand," Xinhua said. They said that the Chinese reception to the delegation "showed support for the just cause of the Arab and Palestinian peoples and would promote a peaceful solution to the Middle East question," the agency said.

On the Chinese side for the two-hour meeting with the delegation were Wu Xueqian, state councillor and foreign minister, and Zhou Jue, assistant foreign minister.

Later on Friday, in a speech he delivered at a banquet held in honour of the delegation, Mr. Zhao attacked Israel and its supporters as obstacles to a Middle

East peace settlement, Reuters reported.

Mr. Zhao said the refusal of Israel and its supporters to recognise the rights of the Palestinians was the biggest obstacle to a settlement and only when they changed their stance could the Middle East move towards peace.

Mr. Zhao did not condemn the United States by name in the speech.

In the speech in the Great Hall of the People, Mr. Zhao said: "The Israeli authorities and their supporters still refuse to recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, refuse to recognise the PLO and refuse to hand back the Arab lands they are occupying."

"Their mistaken stand is the greatest obstacle to a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem. Only when they change this position can the Middle East move towards peace."

In a reply speech, Mr. Arafat warned that the "U.S. ought to realise the era is irrevocably past of not recognising the inherent rights of the Palestinian people, especially their right of self-determination." Reuters said.

China is the first U.N. Security Council member to receive a visit from the joint delegation. It was not clear when or whether it would go to the other permanent members, the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France. Reports said earlier this week that Moscow would receive the joint delegation separately.

Mr. Arafat last visited Peking exactly a year ago.

China recently held a U.N. seminar on Palestine, the first hosted by a permanent member of the Security Council.

Speaking at the closing session, Vice Foreign Minister Qian Qichen reaffirmed China's support for an international conference under U.N. auspices and said the Security Council should play a positive role in convening the meeting.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday presides over the concluding session of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research annual conference (Petra photo)

## Rifai briefs deputies on Feb. 11 accord after Senate debate on draft laws

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai Thursday briefed parliament speakers and a number of deputies on joint Jordanian-Palestinian moves in implementation of an accord signed in Amman on Feb. 11.

The prime minister spoke during a meeting which followed the Upper House of Parliament's session which reviewed the government's endeavours to handle the present financial and economic situation in the country. The House also followed upon efforts to implement programmes contained in the government's policy statement to parliament.

The prime minister answered questions from the audience on different subjects and stressed that he will hold similar meetings with members of both Houses of parliament for further consultations and the exchange of views and information connected with national policies.

Attending the meeting were Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akaf Al Fayez and deputies as well as Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Judeh.

Earlier, the prime minister and several cabinet members attended an Upper House of Parliament session which looked into draft laws and referred some to the concerned parliamentary committees

for examination.

The Senate endorsed a controversial law on Jordanian universities which was passed by Lower House of Parliament after a heated debate during its session held last week. The Senate also passed a number of laws pertaining to social and educational matters and referred another nine laws to its legal committees.

The Senate voted in favour of two laws submitted by a joint legal-educational committee: Yarmouk University temporary law number nine for the year 1976 and a Mu'ta University law number 11 for the year 1981.

Following the endorsement of the two laws, Senate member Juma'a Hamad voiced reservations regarding the use of the English language in teaching academic subjects at both universities. "I call on the nation's intellectuals to promote and develop the Arabic language in order that it will be able to cope with all sciences," he said.

Senator Ahmad Tarawneh supported Mr. Hamad's comment and said: "Though I approve the legal side of the issue, I fully agree with Mr. Hamad in using the Arabic language for all subjects."

The law which was passed by the Lower House stipulates limiting the use of the English language at Yarmouk University to

subjects which cannot be taught in Arabic and to work towards Arabising these subjects.

Another seven laws were endorsed after being tackled by the Senate's legal committee. The laws were: "a draft project for the book keeping profession, 1984; the general administration institute law number 12 for the year 1980; the management and development of the orphan fund law number one for the year 1982; the use of human organs law number (23) for the year 1977 and number (17) for the year 1980.

Another eight laws were referred to the legal committee for amendments: A draft project to cancel the hotels and tourist resorts law for the year 1985; the formation of Shar'a courts laws; amended laws, number 7 for the year 1978 and an amended law number (25) for the year 1979 and number (25) for the year 1983. The Senate also referred amended laws for the foundation of Islamic jurisdiction number 10 for the year 1980 and number (30) for the year 1980, the Civil Aviation Institute amended law number (34) for the year 1975, a temporary law number 45 for the year 1975 and number 32 for the year 1977.

The Senate also referred to the financial committee a temporary law number 13 for the year 1978 for the Jordan-Islamic Bank.

## Visiting minister expresses Czechoslovakia's support for Palestinian cause, peace efforts

By Olga Mikhael  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Czechoslovakia fully supports the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to establish an independent state. It also believes that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should take part in any negotiations or international conference concerning the Middle East issue or the Palestinian cause, Czechoslovakian Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Emilian Hamernik announced in Amman Thursday.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Hamernik said: "When we are speaking of the rights of the Palestinian people, we are speaking in terms of concepts of freedom and democracy and we believe that the life of a people should be decided and determined by the people themselves."

The Czechoslovakian official clarified that his country has a very clear stand vis-a-vis the Middle East conflict and that it has continuously supported the Palestinian cause in all international platforms and forums.

"During my meetings with Jordanian officials, we discussed various matters including Jordan's policy, the Palestinian-Jordanian accord reached on Feb. 11, Israel's arbitrary and oppressive measures and the concept of exchange of land for peace," he said.

He went on to say that holding an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations and in which all concerned parties should participate, including the

PLO, "is a very necessary step towards solving the conflict in the Middle East."

Mr. Hamernik is currently visiting Jordan upon an invitation from the Czechoslovakian-Jordanian Friendship Society and is on the tour in his capacity as the chairman of the Arab Committee of Czechoslovakian Friendship Society for International Relations.

During his visit Mr. Hamernik met with Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Akaf Al Fayez and Ministry of Labour and Social Development Under Secretary Saleh Khasawneh. They discussed ways to promote cooperation in all fields and reviewed means to develop parliamentary affairs between the two countries, especially in the field of exchanging delegations.

### Fields of cooperation

Mr. Hamernik explained that there are many fields in which both Czechoslovakia and Jordan can cooperate. Czechoslovakia, he added, is a highly developed, industrialised country which is ready to offer experts that might help Jordan in specific technical and industrial projects. Also, Czechoslovakia is ready to train technical cadres to help in developing the economy of Jordan, he added.

At present, there are four Czechoslovakian technical experts working at the Ministry of Public Works in Jordan who are providing the technical advice for

many construction projects. However, Mr. Hamernik explained, Czechoslovakia is not satisfied with the volume of present cooperation and hopes that in the future more fields of cooperation will develop.

"In the last twenty years we constructed around 200 projects in various Arab countries such as Syria, Iraq, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Yemen and Kuwait," he said.

Mr. Hamernik pointed out that Jordan is a dynamic country and has rapidly developed a strong economy although it has limited resources.

Concerning cooperation in cultural fields, Mr. Hamernik explained that there are around 200 Jordanian students who have graduated from Czechoslovakian universities. "I have met with these students during my visit and I am very proud to say that they are well-qualified people who are contributing to the development of the Jordanian economy and society," he said.

Czechoslovakia exports around one fifth of its industrial output and imports most of its raw materials and food. Czechoslovakia imports large quantities of phosphate from Jordan and exports industrial products, machinery and plastics. Mr. Hamernik pointed out that there is a scope for further development in business between the two countries.

"Although my visit to Jordan is not official, it was an opportunity to meet with Jordanian officials and to study fields of cooperation and spheres for exports and imports," the Czechoslovakian official concluded.

## Arab veterinarians cable King Hussein at conclusion of union meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Veterinarians Union General Secretariat and the participating delegations Friday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein, expressing appreciation, respect and thanks to the King for hosting the union's meetings which concluded here Friday.

In their cable, they expressed their appreciation to King Hussein for his stands vis-a-vis supporting

Arab causes, especially the Palestine question. They also sent a cable to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, thanking him for patronising the meeting.

The secretariat also sent a cable to Her Highness Princess Alia, thanking her for taking part in the inauguration and a number of sessions.

The union's permanent bureau Friday sent a cable to President

Saddam Hussein of Iraq, in which they condemned whoever threatens his Arab brother or stands by the enemy of the Arab nation.

The bureau also expressed its readiness to support Iraq in its honourable war of defence for the eastern part of the Arab World, and hailed the Iraqi army's courage in repelling the repeated Iranian attacks against Iraq.

## Al al Bait Foundation concludes conference

### Prince Hassan calls for Islamic centrism, Muslim-Christian dialogue

By Olga Mikhael  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday attended the conclusion of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bait Foundation) fourth annual conference and called on all Islamic scholars to adopt a centrist approach to Islam which he said is the best method to solve various problems in contemporary society.

Chairing the concluding session, Prince Hassan also urged Islamic scholars and experts who participated in this conference to initiate Islamic-Islamic dialogue and Christian-Islamic dialogue in order to find common ground for better understanding between the Muslim and Christian communities in the world.

Christian-Islamic dialogue, Prince Hassan explained, will help to clarify both the social and moral aspects of both religions, will avoid fanaticism and extremism and will also further strengthen what is fair and just on both sides.

Addressing over 120 Islamic scholars and experts from all over the world, Prince Hassan stressed the need to conduct a study on treatments of Muslims in non-Islamic nations because, he said, there are many non-Muslim communities which are interested in this subject.

In his speech Prince Hassan stressed the fact that cultural and religious dialogues are the ideal methods to be adopted as these dialogues help to re-evaluate basic human values.

Prince Hassan pointed out certain foreign influences which, he said, have succeeded in distorting the image of Islam. Prince Hassan added that Islamic nation have always taught what is right and just and that they have tackled various important problems.

"My hope is very great in the Islamic scholars who are gathered here because they represent the elites in the Arab and Islamic worlds," he said. These scholars and experts, he continued, should work in order to bridge the gap between the elites and the other classes in society with emphasis on youth.

Prince Hassan also paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein who patronised the conference and who, he said, contributed to the success of this huge gathering.

In the final session the conference discussed final recommendations submitted by many committees. The committee for an encyclopedia on Islamic civilisation discussed the basic materials which should be included in the encyclopedia.

### Islamic encyclopedia

Dr. Omar Jah, Ambassador of Gambia to Saudi Arabia, explained to the Jordan Times that there are many encyclopedias about Islam and Islamic civilisation but added that these encyclopedias are foreign editions and that their writings on Islam are not comprehensive.

Dr. Jah continued that the royal academy is very concerned to issue an Islamic encyclopedia to deal with every aspect of the Islamic civilisation and which will follow up on matters according to the sources of Islamic thoughts, the Quran and Sunnah. Moreover, the Islamic encyclopedia will explore Islamic history with a view to discovering unique Islamic ways of social and economic development, he added.

The committee for Shurah (Isl-

amic consultation) and treatment of non-Muslims in Islam met and submitted recommendations and resolutions concerning the subjects related to Shurah and the non-Muslims communities in Islam.

The Crown Prince attended the committee meetings and urged the committee members to nominate Islamic scholars who could help in the research needed to complete the study on treatments of non-Muslims in Islam. This research will tackle subjects such as human rights in Islam, Islam and Zimma, the Islamic attitude of non-Muslims in society and other subjects.

### Non-Muslims and Islam

Commenting on the treatment of non-Muslims in Islam and on the Christian-Islamic dialogue proposed by Prince Hassan, Grand Imam Jad Al Haq, Sheikh of El Azhar Mosque in Egypt, explained that different imams from El Azhar mosque have already started their dialogue with delegates from the Vatican. Unfortunately, he added, the delegates insisted on discussing only doctrinal issues rather than social and moral issues relating to both religions.

Sheikh Al Haq said: "Emphasising doctrinal issues through dialogue with Christian communities is not good for Muslims. Christian communities in the West are taking advantage of this dialogue and are spreading dangerous ideas among Muslims stating that there is no difference between Muslims and non-Muslims concerning doctrinal aspects."

Dr. Mohammad Marouf El Dawalibi, former Prime Minister of Syria, also commented on the subject of treatment of non-Muslims in Islam and referred to many incidents which stood as obstacles in completing Christian-Islamic dialogue.

Dr. Dawalibi explained that in

Islam, the Zimmi, (a free non-Muslim subject living in a Muslim country) is enjoying protection and safety. The Zimmi, he said, enjoys lots of privileges and are protected by religious jurisdiction.

The committee for education and financial administration in Islam, the committee for Islamic demographic programmes and the committee for the comprehensive catalogue of Arab-Islamic heritage in architecture also met Thursday and submitted recommendations dealing with major problems shared by the Muslim World. Among these problems were mentioned the lack of direction and the tendency for communities in Islamic societies to depend on other traditions. The resolutions submitted called for breaking away from dependency and imitation of contemporary societies, distinction between tradition and basic values of Islam incorporated in the Quran and Sunnah, is very important issue that the Islamic society should be aware of.

Evaluating the fourth annual conference of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research, Dr. Nasseruddeen Al Assad, Minister of Higher Education and the Al al Bait president told the Jordan Times that this conference was "very successful". He said that prominent Islamic scholars and experts gathered to discuss the contemporary social and economic conditions in the Muslim World and the process of social change.

During the conference, Dr. Assad said, different schools of thought such as Abadiities in Oman, Zaidiyya in Yemen and Shiites in Iran met and agreed on the foundation of Islamic jurisprudence. Their assembly, he added, was a unique phenomenon which called for optimism because it demonstrated a convergence of thoughts and stands.

### Cable of thanks

At the conclusion of the conference Prince Hassan sent a cable of thanks to His Majesty King Hussein thanking him for his directions and guidance to the 120 Islamic scholars who participated in the conference.

Dr. Nasseruddeen Al Assad, the academy's president, also sent cable of thanks to King Hussein and Prince Hassan for their keen interest to make the conference a success.

## Princess Alia inaugurates joint Soviet-Jordanian stamp display

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Highness Princess Alia Thursday opened a joint exhibition of Soviet and Jordanian stamps held at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The week-long exhibition, organised by the Ministry of Communications in cooperation with the Soviet embassy and the Jordanian Stamps Collectors Club, is divided into three wings.

One of these sections displays complete sets of Jordanian stamps issued since Independence Day, the second presents Soviet stamps

issued on different local and international anniversaries and the third group of stamps are rare issues featuring the Bolshevik revolution in the Soviet Union.

Ministry of Communications Under Secretary Mansour Ibn Tarif said that the exhibition reflects the continued cooperation between the ministry and the stamps collectors club and also the strong ties binding the Soviet Union and Jordan. The stamps on display, he said, represent the social, economic and cultural development in Jordan over the years.

## JCCC board reviews exports

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of directors of Jordan's Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) held a meeting Thursday.

The board discussed a number of issues pertaining to the development of Jordan's national exports.

The corporation's director general, Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, said that the board has taken a number of decisions regarding the implementation of a barter agreement with Egypt.

Dr. Bani Hani will leave Amman Sunday for Cairo.

## Prime minister pledges governmental support for contracting sector

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai has expressed the government's support for the contracting sector and pledged backing for the contractor's efforts to bolster the national economy.

The prime minister was speaking at a meeting Thursday with members of the Jordanian Contractors and Public Construction Association.

Mr. Rifai said everything should be done to ensure proper and effective assistance for the contracting sector, but he also called on the association's members to work towards further organising their sector to enable it to handle the huge funds invested in different projects.

This meeting is designed to identify the problems and the obstacles which contractors and the construction business encounter with a view to finding proper means for solving these issues, the prime minister said. Mr. Rifai said his government will be open to proposals from the contractors.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said that a draft law for the contractors association has been drawn up and will soon be debated by the cabinet.

He said that he has issued instructions for the implementation of regulations concerning general conditions for awarding tenders and added that the government is intending to offer local contractors greater opportunities for implementing local projects whenever possible. He said that local workers also will have priority over foreigners in employment.

The prime minister said that he has issued instructions for the formation of a special committee to examine the problems and obstacles impeding the work and progress of the contracting sector and to prepare proposals for solving these issues. This committee, he said, comprises representatives of the Ministries of Industry and Trade, Public Works, Finance and Planning as well as the Central Bank of Jordan, the contractors

association, the association of banks in Jordan and the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The ministers of public works, industry and trade, finance, transport and planning, who were present at the meeting, also took part in the discussions.

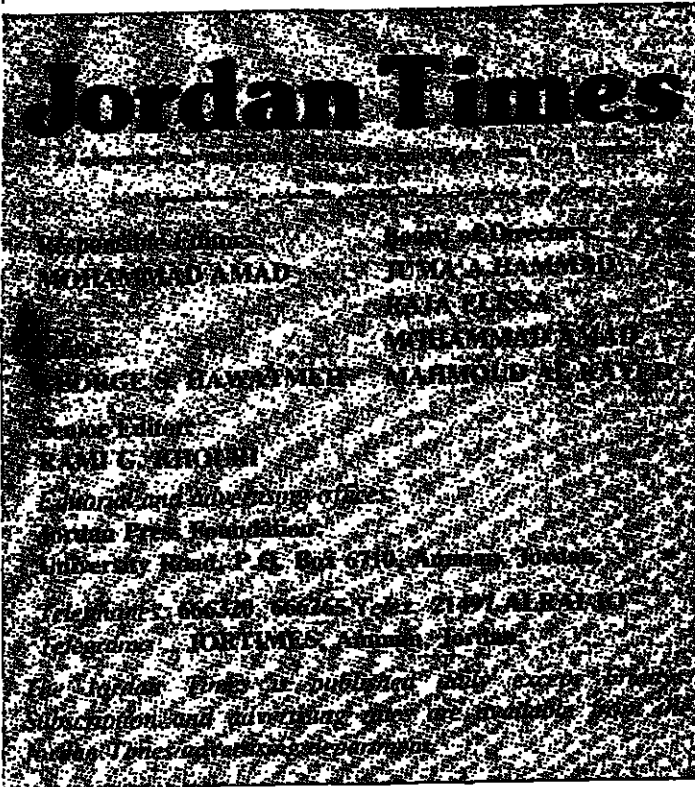
The association's president, Mr. Radwan Hajjar, made a speech at the meeting in which he expressed appreciation for the government's steps. He also outlined the various tasks which the contracting sector has undertaken in the country, pointing out that 720 local businesses have invested JD 120 million in Jordanian projects.

Mr. Hajjar stressed the need for better organisation within the contracting sector and presented several demands and requests to the prime minister. These included a call for issuing a projected associations law, organising financial relations between contractors and banks and handling the issue of competition between local and foreign contracting firms.

## Wilfrid G. Rust to be laid to rest today in Jabal Amman

AMMAN — The funeral procession of the late Wilfrid G. Rust, who passed away on Thursday May 9, 1985, will take place on Saturday at 5 p.m. at Al Fadi Evangelical Church in Jabal Amman. The late Mr. Rust, who served for 17 years as the Bishop (Mutan) School, was an example of a good teacher, friends and colleagues said.





## Fears grow of all out civil war in Lebanon

By John Kohut  
Reuter

BEIRUT — Fears are growing among ordinary Lebanese of all-out civil war amid political stalemate and heavy fighting between Falangist forces and left-wing militias along Beirut's "Green Line" battlefront.

Residents say the artillery bombardments, which have struck deep into residential areas and killed 14 people in the last week, are ominous at a time when opposed militias are confronting each other in South Lebanon.

Thirteen shells crashed into the International Airport on Sunday night, the worst attack since it reopened last July after a five-month shut-down because of fighting.

Crossing between mainly-Muslim west and Christian east Beirut have been closed for most of the past week. Hundreds of people have fled their homes near the front, where militias have put up earth barricades up to three metres high.

"Even during so-called ceasefires there is shelling, the streets are deserted and all shops are closed," said one resident on the western side of the line. "We're living in fear and expecting worse."

On Hamra, a big shopping street in west Beirut, Lebanese army soldiers sit and chat while the boom of artillery shells echoes over the city.

Their helplessness to intervene reflects the virtual paralysis in

Prime Minister Rashid Karami's Christian-Muslim cabinet, which has failed to carry out long-promised political reforms or get militias out of the streets.

Syria, the main power broker and mediator in Lebanese affairs, has so far failed to announce any new peace initiative after Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and Amal militias overran a swathe of territory east and north of the southern port of Sidon nine days ago.

Political observers say they see no let-up in the fighting at least until Israel completes its troop withdrawal from South Lebanon in the next few weeks, strengthening Syria's hand in any attempts to work out a new political accord in Lebanon.

"I don't see any settlement until the Israelis leave, when there will be only one regional power playing in Lebanon's internal affairs instead of two," one observer said.

In southern Lebanon, fighters of the mainly Christian "Lebanese Forces" and the Israeli-backed "south Lebanon Army" (SLA) militia are holding out in Jezzine and Kfar Falous, east of Sidon.

PSP leader Walid Junblatt and the leader of the (Shi'ite) Amal Movement, Nabih Berri, have said they will not attack Jezzine if troops deploy there and the SLA withdraws.

But SLA leader Antoine Lahad has sworn to maintain his positions.

Political observers said tension

could escalate in the South after Israel completes its troop withdrawal from areas it occupied in its 1982 invasion.

Rejecting Israeli plans to create a security zone north of the border, Amal says it will keep up attacks on the SLA and other client militias there. Israel says it will cross its frontiers again if guerrillas infiltrate the buffer area.

Despite the Lebanese Forces' defeat in the Sidon area, which led to an exodus of thousands of Christians to the border strip, "forces" Commander Samir Geagea has sworn to fight to regain his lost territory.

He was reinstated in the mainly Christian Falange Party, loyal to Christian President Amin Gem-

ayel, as part of a reconciliation between the party and its militia.

Geagea led the "forces" in a revolt in March against pro-Syrian policies advocated by Mr. Gemayel, now apparently in a controversial position in a increasingly strained political atmosphere. The cabinet has failed to meet for weeks.

Mr. Berri and Mr. Junblatt have refused to go to the presidential palace in east Beirut to meet the president and have suggested the Chamber of Deputies or Military Council buildings as suitable sites for a cabinet session.

Both buildings are located near the Green Line's main "museum" crossing, inaccessible because of the recent fighting.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

#### Al Ra'i: Rare chance for peace

U.S. SECRETARY of State George Shultz starts a tour of the Middle East region Friday by visiting Israel first and then he proceeds to Cairo and Amman to discuss prospects of a peace settlement.

Shultz will also sound out the possibility of initiating a joint Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue with the American administration.

We cannot predict the outcome of this tour, but we ought to remind Shultz that the chance available for peace at present should not be missed and that the Jordanian-Palestinian accord of Feb. 11 presents the best vehicle for peace. The Arabs who meet Shultz should make it clear to him that the PLO cannot be excluded from any future talks since they represent the Palestinian people.

Neither Shultz nor any other U.S. administration members should try to impose conditions on the Palestinian representatives because this would mean adhering to Israeli terms, which call for no negotiations with the PLO or those who support the organisation.

The American administration should free itself from these Israeli conditions and work on its own if it really wants to make a breakthrough in the situation. Shultz will find the Arabs ready for peace, but he will find the leaders in Amman and Cairo committed to their stand of including the PLO as negotiator in the peace process.

#### Al Dustour: UNRWA deficit worries Jordan

IN A meeting with UNRWA's commissioner-general, the prime minister voiced Jordan's concern over the recurrent deficit in the agency's budget and the delay by some countries in sending in their contributions for the current year.

We share the government's concern over this situation since a reduction of UNRWA's services to the refugees would threaten their existence. We like to believe that the delay is temporary and the funds will arrive just in time to avert a disaster. We also hope that the delay does not constitute political lever on the Arabs because we refuse any pressure of this nature.

The prime minister pointed out that the government will follow up contacts with concerned nations to send their contributions to UNRWA in order to enable the agency to continue shouldering its humanitarian responsibility. But to leave UNRWA at the mercy of these countries' contributions would not be a wise practice and would rather cast a dark shadow on its future and its role in the Arab region. We call on the United Nations to re-examine the situation and to link UNRWA's budget with that of the U.N. annual budget, because in this way we can guarantee continued funds and continued humanitarian services to the refugees, as long as they remain denied their rights in their homeland.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: Reactivating the economy

THE JORDANIAN domestic scene is currently witnessing a flurry of political and economic activity designed to revitalise the economy and enhance the country's march towards progress. The political activity on the part of Jordanians and Palestinians is aimed at winning support for the Arab and Palestinian issues and at finally finding a just and durable settlement for the Palestine problem.

The initiative was started by King Hussein's visits to a number of Arab countries to discuss steps that can ensure peace and a return of Arab rights. The joint delegations to visit foreign countries are designed to help convene the projected international conference to find a just Middle East settlement.

The prime minister's meeting with parliament members to brief them on these moves was designed to involve them in the process, and his meeting with representatives of the private sector points to the government's genuine drive to bolster the national economy.

Thursday's

#### Al Ra'i: Neo-fascists still kick

THE WORLD celebrated the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II and the collapse of Nazi Germany. Some nations believe the anniversary marks the end of fascism in the world, but current world developments tell otherwise and emphasise the fact that fascism is still as strong as ever and is being practised specially by Israel. This means that the international community has a real responsibility to handle and that it should find an end to the present Israeli practices which represent an extension of the acts of fascism and Nazism practised by Hitler against humanity.

The Israelis have been carrying out fascist practices against the Palestinians and the Lebanese people and they have been collaborating with South Africa on racial discrimination grounds.

The international community has described Zionism as a form of racial discrimination because of past practices but a real and deeper look into Zionist practices in the Arab region will no doubt prompt this community to relate it to Nazism and fascism.

It is not enough to condemn the acts of fascists that were defeated decades ago, but the present fascists should be doomed as well.

#### Al Dustour: Joint visit to China draws support

THE JORDANIAN-Palestinian joint delegation's visit to China marks the start of moves on the international scene to canvass support for the Arab cause.

The importance of the visit to China stems from the fact that the Chinese are our friends and China has proved its strong ties with the Arabs on many occasions; besides, it is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council which shoulders the responsibility of maintaining world peace and security.

China seems to be interested in the Jordanian-Palestinian accord signed last February in Amman and is keen on backing both parties' efforts to reach a just settlement. The Chinese stand constitutes a gain for the Arabs and reaffirms the genuine Chinese friendship of the Arab nation. This stand is reflected in the welcome which the joint delegation received upon arrival in Peking and manifests the Chinese leaders' concern over Arab issues.

We look to China and other major powers and peace-loving nations to help us reach a settlement of the Middle East issue that would help regain for the Palestinians their rights in their homeland.

## Gorbachev strengthens power and prepares reforms

By Charles Bremner  
Reuter

MOSCOW — In less than two months since coming to office, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has taken rapid hold of the levers of power and laid the groundwork for a programme to shape the country in the closing years of the century.

After a laborious first eight weeks in which he has promoted allies, imposed his authority and set the tone for changes to come, informed Soviet sources and foreign diplomats see Mr. Gorbachev now moving into a second phase.

Mr. Gorbachev, 54, is said to be supervising the work of an array of commissions that he set up to review policy in vital areas, including the economy and foreign relations with the United States.

Decisions on these fronts will be enshrined in a new five-year plan and party programme, to be adopted by the party's five-yearly congress next February.

Though Mr. Gorbachev's appointment on the death of Konstantin Chernenko had been widely

anticipated, the speed of his moves and his bold style have sent shock waves through the vast party bureaucracy, Soviet sources said.

Since his acceptance speech on March 11, the new leader has been using direct language to declare war on inefficiency, corruption, waste and lethargy.

His no-nonsense manner and distaste for showiness has been projected by the state media, which have cut back their usually frequent personal references to the party chief.

In a small but telling innovation sure to have been widely noted, the leader's portrait in last week's May Day parade was no larger than those of other politburo members.

Cracking the whip in a speech last month to the central committee he promised the enforcement of order "in every enterprise, every construction site."

He demonstrated his aim to make sure improvements reached ordinary people by paying prompt visits to Moscow factories and dropping in on the home of a working family.

He also caused alarm among managers by announcing there would be no downward revision of unfulfilled plan targets this year, a traditional practice as the country nears the end of the five-year plan period.

In stressing discipline and efficiency, Mr. Gorbachev is following in the footsteps of Yuri Andropov, who succeeded Leonid Brezhnev as party leader in late 1982 and began grooming the younger man as an eventual successor.

Mr. Gorbachev has shown he has the clout to carry through what age and illness prevented Mr. Andropov from doing before he died in February 1984, to be succeeded by Mr. Chernenko.

In a swift move last month, he promoted three close associates, all of them groomed by Mr. Andropov, to the politburo.

The three — Viktor Chebrikov, chief of the KGB security apparatus, economic specialist Nikolai Rykhkov and party personnel chief Yegor Ligachev — are expected to play a major role in implementing Mr. Gorbachev's policies.

Their presence in the 13-man politburo has ensured Mr. Gorbachev a working majority, weakening the already dwindling influence of the "old guard" promoted under Mr. Brezhnev.

Analysts say the next step is likely to be the removal of elderly figures like Moscow Party chief Viktor Grishin and Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov, who is 80 this month.

This could begin at a party plenum next month before a session of the Supreme Soviet, or legislature, which is expected to appoint Mr. Gorbachev head of state.

Parallel to changes in the Kremlin, the party's Personnel Department, headed by Mr. Ligachev, is pushing through a drive to weed out dead wood from the regional party leadership.

Party bosses from the provinces from a large proportion of the 300-strong central committee, all of whose members are up for election at next year's congress.

Calling last month for the right mixture of youth and experience in party posts, Mr. Gorbachev made clear his wish to see more able and younger men and women

on the committee.

As far as the substance of his economic reforms is concerned, Mr. Gorbachev has so far revealed only broad outlines.

These suggest he has no plans for radical innovation like the market-oriented reforms implemented by China or Hungary, though he is said to have set up commissions to report on these, according to Soviet sources.

From his statements, it appears Mr. Gorbachev aims to strengthen the central-planning system while cutting down the huge middle-level bureaucracy that stifles decision-making.

The tool for this is likely to be the extension of a scheme started in 1983 giving enterprise managers authority to control wage and staffing levels, diplomats say.

A dominant theme in his speeches is the need to modernise Soviet technology, which is far below world standards.

Foreign Governments are waiting for Mr. Gorbachev to make his mark on external policy, still the domain of Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, 75.

Western officials, though impressed by his intelligence, say he has yet to demonstrate the flexibility many had expected.

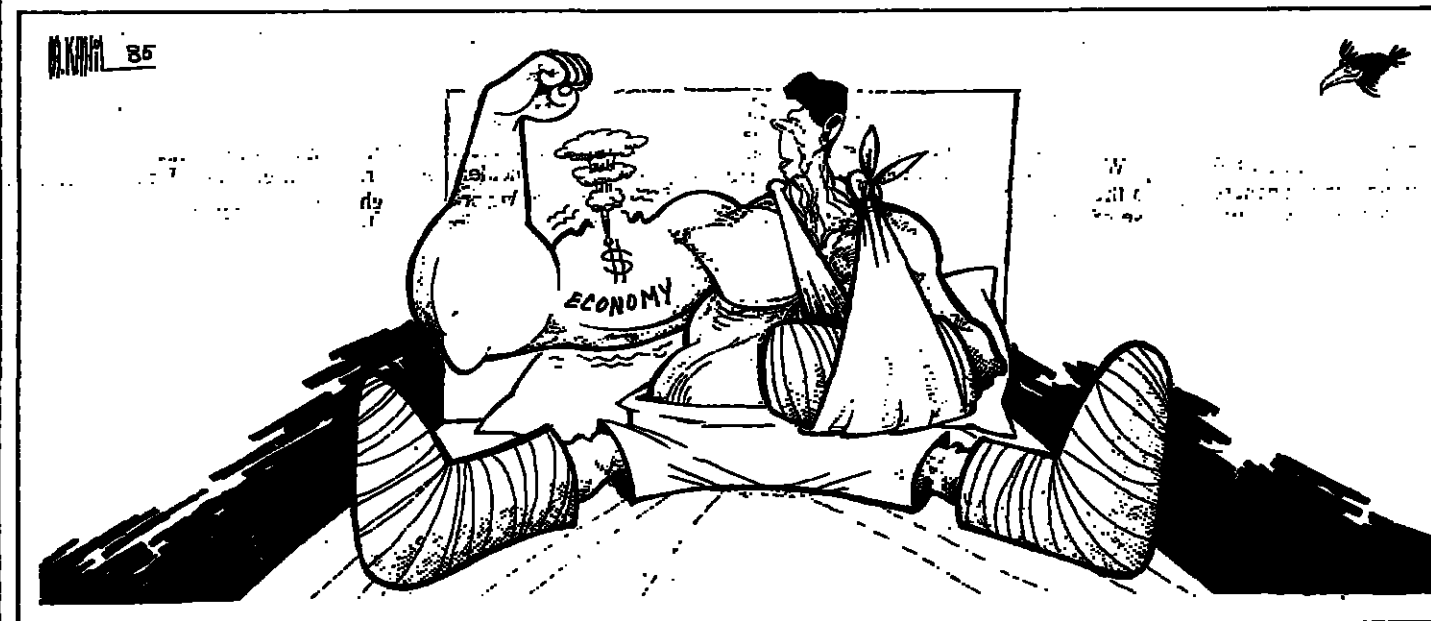
While he has called for better relations with Washington, his statements have reiterated longstanding Kremlin charges against the United States and the West.

Some diplomats in Moscow are convinced Mr. Gorbachev will present a formidable challenge to the West by presenting Soviet positions in a more credible and sophisticated light.

An illustration of this was the speed with which he moved last month to blame Washington for the lack of progress at the talks in Geneva on space and nuclear weapons.

Mr. Gorbachev also appears to be succeeding in imposing his authority on Moscow's East bloc allies, some of whom showed signs of dissent in past years of weak Kremlin leadership.

In his only foreign trip so far, Mr. Gorbachev met six allied leaders in Poland last month to prolong for 20 years the treaty of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact alliance.



## Mr. Craxi faces testing time ahead

By Patrick Worsnip  
Reuter

ROME — Italy's coalition government, in office for the relatively long period of 20 months, faces a series of electoral hurdles in coming weeks that are critical to its survival.

Local elections on May 12 will pit the popularity of the five-party coalition against the opposition Communists.

Less than a month later, a national referendum promoted by the Communists is scheduled on whether to repeal a key government economic measure.

And finally, bickering among all the parties can be expected over the succession to president Sandro Pertini, whose seven-year mandate expires on July 8.

The two main government parties, the Christian Democrats and the Socialists, are attributing crucial importance to the local elections in which 44 million people will vote for new regional, provincial and town councils over most of Italy.

"There is no doubt that the May 12 elections ... are so overloaded with political significance that neither the majority nor the government would survive a defeat," Socialist Prime Minister Bettino Craxi said this month.

Italians are waiting to see whether the Communists can repeat their success in European Parliament elections last June when they came top of the poll for the first time, edging ahead of the Christian Democrats by 0.3 of a percentage point.

Other parties were quick to attribute the Communist victory to a sympathy vote resulting from the death, just before the election, of the party's popular leader Enrico Berlinguer. That theory is now to be put to the test.

Christian Democratic Vice-Premier Arnaldo Forlani has said that if the Communist "sorsasso" (overtaking) of his party is confirmed, this will imperil not just the present government but Italian democracy in general.

The smaller government parties — Republicans, Social Democrats

and Liberals — say the main thing is not whether the Christian Democrats are overtaken, but how the coalition fares as a whole, and they expect it to retain its majority.

The Communists accuse the Christian Democrats and Socialists of trying to scare the electorate into voting for them.

But they make no secret of their desire to bring down the government and replace it with a Communist-Socialist coalition, even though the Socialists reject such an alliance.

Although there is no constitutional reason for local elections to affect the central government, they are taken very seriously in Italy, a country of strong regional affiliations.

The Christian Democrats have long accused the Socialists of perfidy for forming coalitions with the Communists in local government.

Left-wing alliances excluding the Christian Democrats run a string of major Italian cities, including Rome and Milan. The Communists boast of their eff-

iciency in local administration, and their campaign posters claim that theirs are "cities to live better in."

A leading election issue will be the government's handling of the economy. Under Mr. Craxi, inflation has come down from 16 to nine per cent a year but wages have also been trimmed by indexing inflation-indexed rises.

On June 9, Italians vote in a referendum on whether to restore to wage packets rises worth a total of 27,200 lire (about \$13.60) per month to every employed person which were lopped off by the government last year.

Employers say they cannot afford it, and to lose the vote would humiliate the government. Efforts to avoid the referendum by negotiating a new wage mechanism between unions, employers and the government have so far led nowhere.

If the Craxi cabinet weathers the elections and the referendum it could still face divisions over the presidential succession.

## United Brands winds up Costa Rican operation

By Mark Baillie  
Reuter

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — United Brands has wound up its banana growing operation in Costa Rica, signalling the collapse of power once wielded by U.S. fruit companies in Central America.

United Brands was the new York-based successor to the United Fruit Company whose enormous political and economic influence in the past helped create the derisive label "banana republics" for the region's nations.

Its decision to sell 2,000 hectares of plantations to the government for \$20 million was taken last December after a 72-day strike earlier in the year by banana workers and ended 100 years of banana growing by U.S. companies in Costa Rica.

When the withdrawal was formally announced at the end of March, United Brands spokesman Richard Johnson said: "The tremendous destructive effect of the last strike produced the end of the banana activities of this company."

He also said low prices, high export taxes and the long distances to main markets contributed to the decreasing profitability of banana production.

United Brands' Costa Rican subsidiary, Compania Bananera de Costa Rica, earned \$40 million in banana exports and taxes for the country in 1983 and provided 3,000 jobs.

Government officials admit United's decision will cause economic distress to Costa Rica's two million people.

The banana strike to press demands for pay rises of up to 70 per cent began last July. Negotiations between the Communist-led union and company representatives broke down in a welter of mutual accusations.

A labour court ruled the strike illegal, arguing that normal negotiating procedures had not been exhausted. The conflict sharpened when police trying to clear picket lines opened fire and killed two workers.

As the dispute dragged on into September, banana plantations were ravaged by disease and neglect.

It was a far cry from the days when United Fruit virtually dictated policy in Central America. Historians agree that the company played a key role in the 1954 U.S.-sponsored coup against Guatemala's reform-minded president, Jacobo Arbenz, who had nationalised its vast Guatemalan landholdings.

The government hopes the job losses created by United Brands' departure will break the back of the Communist United Workers Confederation (CUT), one of the few legal Communist unions operating in Latin America.

It also hopes to reap some benefit from the loss of United's banana harvest by diversifying crops on its plantations to protect growers from fluctuating banana prices and dependency on one crop and to create new jobs.

Church and labour leaders however warned that the simmering unrest caused by the dispute could boil over and shatter Costa Rica's image as a haven of stability in turbulent Central America.

"There will be no lack of agitators bringing grist to their political or ideological mills by instigating violence," San Jose's Archbishop Roman Arrieta said at a ceremony when United Brands' lands were handed over to the government.

He added that the long term plan must be to eliminate the danger of "unemployment and its result which is vagrancy ... increase in crime and prostitution."

## LETTERS

### Seatbelts again

To the Editor:

Concerning Randa Habib's column on wearing car seatbelts (Jordan Times, Monday, May 6, 1985), British statistics for the relationship between car accidents and home/office location proves that the majority of accidents occur within drivers' home base area. In other words: Deaths and serious accidents occur during shopping trips, trips to and from offices, schools and shops.

All I need to add is look at the percentage of car accidents recorded in Jordan. It is usual for more than 60 per cent to occur within Amman area. That is evidence enough.

You are right — always belt-up!

Pat J. Brereton,  
P.O. Box 925930  
Amman.

Handwritten text in Arabic script, possibly a signature or note.





**Talking straight**  
**Marwan Muasher**

## Where are the letters to the editor?

IN THE lower right hand corner of page four in the Jordan Times stands a loner who has not seen many days of glory. News have passed him by so many times, so often in fact that they have gone so far as overriding him altogether. Oh, yes, there are few times when he pokes his head above the surface, trying to remind us of his existence, only to go under for several issues to come. And were it not for some skilful editor trying his best to keep a weak heart pumping, our friend would have been dead a long time ago.

In a newspaper as serious as the Jordan Times, read by the elite of this country, it is amazing that the letters-to-the-editor section is so conspicuously absent. Once every few days or sometimes every

week, a letter appears, and then the corner goes into hibernation in anticipation of another reader who feels strongly enough about a subject to devote half-an-hour of his time for a letter to the paper.

The subjects that the letters have dealt with, few as they are, are also perplexing. Over the past year or two, people have written about such subjects as seatbelts, highway billboards, and attitudes of TV announcers. Now I am not suggesting that these subjects are of no importance, but I am puzzled not to see people also write about other subjects of major impact on their lives.

I have been writing in the Jordan Times for over two and a half years now. During that period, a lot of the local, for I do not want to concern myself

with the international, events that have taken place should have been of concern to Jordanians. We have had two changes of government. Parliament was reinstated. By-elections were held for the first time in 18 years. The Palestine National Council was held in Amman. Two very controversial laws were enacted by the government. And the list goes on. Yet throughout this period, I do not recall one letter to the editor dealing with these or any other political or social subject affecting our lives. That to me is more than strange. It is frightening.

If one assumes a good percentage of the Jordan Times readership is foreign, then perhaps one can justify this lack of interest in local events, even though there are many subjects

of concern to people living here, Jordanians or foreigners, that are also not written about. The disturbing phenomenon, however, is that even though the J.T. is read by a great percentage of educated Jordanians, that percentage is not reflected neither in the quantity nor quality of letters to the editor. Yes, one often hears verbal reactions from Jordanians as to events taking place or articles written, but a surprisingly small number of people are willing to commit themselves to a few lines on paper.

Two reasons come to mind: Apathy and fear. Apathy is a subject I am almost too apathetic to write about. I can understand someone being apathetic when he or she has more basic needs to satisfy, but

I cannot for the world comprehend why educated people in this country are so indifferent about events that have a major say in shaping their own lives. It seems this my opinion doesn't count attitude runs deep, especially among the educated here. Unfortunately, the majority are still either satisfied with a secure income, or just do not care to voice their opinions.

The fear reason is even more alarming. When there have been only very few letters to the editor dealing with a political subject for the last two years, one has to assume people are afraid to meddle publicly with political affairs. I think this assumption holds a lot of truth in it.

We have been brought up with the implicit idea that it is

wrong to have opinions on politics, let alone voice them. We have this notion reared with us that politics is better left to politicians, and that we are not qualified to speak our minds on issues. Moreover, we have been somehow led to believe that if we dare to speak out, we will be persecuted.

This set of false assumptions has led us to erect an imaginary wall in our minds which we have grown careful not to cross. In our over-caution not to offend the government authorities, we have set thresholds much lower than those which the government is prepared to tolerate. Our newspapers are full of examples of criticisms so mild that one often wonders whether the writer is criticising the government or apologising

for it. Most importantly, we have to rid ourselves of the notion that it is unpatriotic to criticise your own government or public officials. I tend to believe that the opposite is true. We need to constantly start debates on all subjects of concern to us.

Letters to the editor might seem unimportant to many. But their significance to me lies in their reflection of the degree of concern citizens have towards issues. In the case of the J.T., the corner sadly reflects that feeble concern among the educated Jordanians who read the Jordan Times.

I know my article will sound offensive to many. Can I at least hope that it will invite some angry letters to the editor?

## Channel 6 is awash with sentiment this week

By J.H. Boteler

THERE IS a strong vein of sentiment running through Channel 6 this week. For a start, take the two feature films. Saturday, at 10.15, there is the 1931 classic weepy, "The Champ", starring Wallace Beery, Jackie Cooper, and Irene Rich. Made by the great King Vidor, it chronicles the story of a washed-up boxer and his son, who are down-and-out in Tijuana. (Practically everyone in Tijuana is down-and-out, but that's beside the point). Beery shared the best-actor Oscar with Frederick March for his excesses in this sad tale, and the audiences of the time went wild over it, which I suppose says quite a lot about the audiences of the time. Miss Rich gives a good performance as the wife and mother who abandoned her family. Does dad make a comeback and lift the tide? Does his son and heir spur him on to greater glory? I don't know, but it's definitely a tear-jerker. Tuesday at 10.15 when it's time for the Return Of Marcus Welby? We all remember dear old Marcus, don't we? Originally designed as an afternoon soap-opera, for harassed working mothers to indulge in between nappies and tea, or indeed for non-working mothers between hair-dos and bridge-parties — Marcus is the elderly, smiling, genial and extremely unflappable senior medic at some clean, spotless and eternally bright vast hospital complex, where trauma, disaster, broken hearts and horrifically complicated life-and-death situations all clamour for his fatherly advice and sure guiding hand. Well, it appears that Marcus has finally decided to retire — about time too; I mean, the old boy has got to be at least eleven-two if he's a day — but his faithful staff are clamouring for his return. Also, a junior surgeon has made a slight error and killed a patient, and is threatening to retire. Shock, horror, come back quick, Marcus.

More tragic love affairs loom in the play of the week, on Wednesday at 10.15, with a dramatisation of Henry James's "The Wings Of The Dove", one of the great novelists most popular works. It is made by Denis Constanduros who, until his death in 1978, was considered one of the best adapters of James' work for the television screen. Set in London in the early years of this century, the novel deals with a theme that was dear to James' heart — the affect of Europe on the Americans of his day who came there in search of enlightenment, romance and excitement. The beautiful Kate Croy is secretly in love with Merton Densher, an impoverished journalist of whom her guardian, the formidable Maud Lower, would strongly disapprove. Two American ladies on a tour of Europe arrive in London. One is the young, beautiful and wealthy Milly Theale. Her older companion, Susan Stringham, is a lifetime friend of Mrs. Lower. Discovering that Milly is ill and suspecting that she may not have long to live, Kate suggests to Mer-

ton that he pretend an interest in Milly in order to brighten her last days but also to gain, by way of legacy, some of her vast fortune. Morton reluctantly agrees, but in the process of his deception he develops a genuine affection for Milly, an affection which, after Milly's death, produces a subtle change in his relationship with Kate. Once again we are lucky in that the play is being shown in its entirety, (don't worry, you'll still be in bed by midnight), and looks more promising than last week's play, Walk With Destiny which, despite its strong cast, never really got off the ground.

Gloom and despondency are in evidence elsewhere, as well. The grim reaper is gleefully digging a mass grave in the snowy wastes for foolhardy Captain Scott and his ill-fated party in the Last Place On Earth, (Tuesday, 9.10), and at the same time on Monday George Washington preens and gloats over his defeat of the hopelessly incompetent British army. But there is real tragedy (as opposed to dramatic reconstruction) Vietnam, (tonight, 8.30), moves inexorably on its downward slide to disaster. "Days Of Decision, 1963-1968", is tonight's episode, and it charts the depressing tale of events as, with government following government in South Vietnam, and the pressure from the Vietcong increasing, the United States was forced to make its decision: All-out commitment of withdrawal? As we all know, President Johnson opted for commitment, for bombing North Vietnam and landing combat troops at Da Nang.

Interestingly enough, Vietnam lies just outside the scope of the New Pacific, (Wednesday, 9.10). Korea is mentioned, as in Japan, extensively. But I suppose Vietnam is still Persona-non-grata when it comes to handing out mild praise or disapproving censure. I don't know why, but I find this programme rather disturbing. Last week studied the education of the region, and took as its thesis the different concepts towards education: The western one of children as "candles to be lit", and the eastern one of "jugs to be filled". Japan pays for its extraordinarily high level of academic achievement with a suicide rate amongst its university students of two thousand a year. The narrator smugly decided that the human robots produced by such a system would not, ultimately, be fit to handle the demands of the future: I wouldn't be so sure. The previous week discussed the marriage customs of the various nations and cultures, and some of this was mind-boggling. "Real" wedding dresses on hire merely for the photo of the bride. A shuttle service, all expenses included, which flew loving couples to Hawaii, processed them through a half-hour ceremony, much in the manner of cheese slices, and then presented them with an edited "highlights-only" video of the great day, cleverly omitting evidence of the empty sterile surroundings by intercutting tourist views of the island. Will the His-

tory of Television, (tomorrow, Sunday, 9.10), hold up its hands in shame at this evidence of the media's insidious power? Not on your nelly. But there is hope yet. In the education programme, a group of Korean children watched an educational TV programme where a lady with a nasal, mid-Western accent that cut, enthusiastically taught the little mites the principles of counting. "Now, say after me, three wiimen! "Und-aunted, and to a man, the whole class solemnly intoned: "Three woman". Videotape can't answer back. This week's episode, (the last in the series), is entitled: "Is the Future Made in Japan?" Underlying the economic miracles of Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan is the philosophy and code of behaviour of Confucianism which originated in China 2500 years ago. China is Confucian once more, as the policies of Deng replace those of Mao. Under its guidelines people accept authority, hard work and self-sacrifice in the interest of national prosperity. The film compares the technological progress of China and Korea with Japan, noting a possible flaw in the Japanese notion of incentive. We see the huge emphasis on computerisation of the home which is to be the theme of Expo'85. We see how the Japanese rose to the challenge of computerised use of the 500 character Chinese alphabet. Will the future lie with Japan or will America retain a narrow lead? Who will be the first with the 5th. generation computer? If it is Japan, Stanford University Professor Feigenbaum says it will result in an electronic "Pearl Harbour". Not a very encouraging choice of words.

But enough of such morbid imaginings! There's plenty of fun and gaiety around. For as start, one of these jolly Saturdays, (maybe even tonight), we are bound to be treated to one of the longest running comedy shows on Television: The Eurovision Song Contest. Can't wait. And Monday at 8.30 has its regular appointment with string-along-Julian, or, "Guitarra!!", with jovial Mr. Bream getting down and bo-

gieing with crowds of jolly Catalans. In fact Spain figures again in the new comedy series on Sunday night at 8.30. "Allo! Allo" is a creation of the writing team of David Croft and Jeremy Lloyd, whose other hits include "Dad's Army" and "Are You Being Served". In a small cafe in occupied France during the World War II, Rene, the proprietor, waits on German officers, while a girl from the resistance listens in the back room, and two British airmen hide upstairs in a cupboard. But Rene is less frightened of the Germans than he is of Edith, his wife, finding out about his activities with Yvette and Maria, the cafe waitresses. Its bound to be more of a laugh than "Vietnam". This week also sees the end of two other comedy series, at 8.30 "Tripper's Day", (Tuesday), and "The Bouncer", (Wednesday). In the former, there are a lot of things that Norman would like to hush up. There's the VAT inspector asking awkward questions about a liquid container; there are Hilda's constant references to an unfortunate incident in their private lives, and there's that little box on one of the checkout desks. In The Bouncer, meanwhile, Howard believes that his constant attentions to Laura are finally paying dividends, and that she has fallen for him. He would not be so happy if he knew the title of the episode, which is The Rivall! Let us hope that the replacement series are up to the same high standard, or at least near them. "Charles In Charge" continues on Thursday at 8.30, while on Friday at the same time there is a brief, one-off, return from an old favourite: "Don't Wait Up". When we last saw them, the Lattimers were laid up in hospital beds, private or otherwise. It appears that they are now healed and generally patched up, in more ways than one, for Toby meets an old friend and decides to return to Angela, his estranged wife. Naturally, Tom is delighted, but is his father's reasons for reconciliation strictly honourable?

Noble intentions and high passion continue to pluck at the heart strings in "All the Rivers Run",

(Thursday, 9.10), and light entertainment is provided, (in various forms), by "Scarecrow And Mrs. King", (tomorrow, Sunday, 10.15) and "Hawaiian Heat" on Monday at the same time. Magnum revolvers and below the belt punches take over in "Dempsey And Makepeace" on Thursday after the news.

Finally, there is drama. Thursday evening has both "All the Rivers Run", (9.10), with Phillis having to come to terms with the fact that she has not so much lost a boat as gained a son, and with rugged John, — who resembles very strongly a clean-living Ian Botham, (apologies to loyal frequenters of the Hills), providing strong-jawed succour and aid. At 10.15 on the same night there is "Dempsey And Makepeace". I can think of better ways of improving a personal relationship than falling out of aeroplanes without a parachute, but they go about things, in a novel way in this particular force. Not so novel, of course, that a place can't be found for Magnum revolvers and good old-fashioned punching below the belt. A more sedate form of romance amongst the fingerprints can be found in "Scarecrow And Mrs. King", (tomorrow, Sunday, 10.15). "Hawaiian Heat", (Monday, 10.15), is ridiculous as ever.

Things are looking pretty rough for upright and stiff-lipped Colonel Bantry in "Miss Marple", which sees the third and concluding part of "The Body In The Library" this Friday at 9.10. Normally, of course, such strong suspicion would place the colonel right out of the running in the whodunnit stakes, but Agatha Christie is not your average crime-writer, and about the only thing that is definite is that spinstress Jane is innocent. Joan Hickson is perfect in the lead role. Margaret Rutherford is, perhaps, the most famous of the screen Miss Marples, but, despite her enormous exuberance, could not have been further from the spirit of Miss Christie's heroine. Miss Hickson though, has just the right amount of frail old-maidishness and hard-as-nails understanding of the darker side of the world and

its passions. And at 10.15 on Friday there is "Hot Pursuit". Jim and Kate seek refuge on a military base and Jim's appearance triggers a mental breakdown in a veteran officer whom Jim rescued from a raid in Vietnam. As a result, the soldier begins to relive the past and tries to kill Kate. This series is totally mystifying. In the original model, "The Fugitive" David Janssen used to skulk around seedy old motels and doss-houses, looking extremely sorry for himself, and generally suffering nobly in his very long quest for justice. He was searching for a one-armed man. Kate and Jim are being pursued by a one-eyed man, — Shaw, the mutant cyclops from the Oz lagoon —, but there the resemblance ends. Not for our heroes the desperate life of a fugitive, cafes and rat-infested tenements. Oh, no. They stay at the Sheraton. Once spotted, they simply leave all their possessions behind, high-tail it up the main street, and book into the Hilton. They pick up a new Cadillac from friendly rental agencies about twice a day. And the wake of destruction they leave. Smashed police-cars, broken in TV vans, unpaid bills, not to mention the piles of bodies disposed of by Shaw, the cod-fish killer, as he trails after them. I can imagine the ending: Kate is cleared of murder, Shaw and Estelle are consigned to some loathsome dungeon. And then a police detective taps Jim on the shoulder, and the next thing our smiling couple show is that they are serving time for the longest and most assorted charge sheet ever envisaged. They'll be still inside when Shaw and Estelle, (who looks as if she wandered onto the wrong set from "Dynasty"), are happily free. Shaw's best bet, of course, when he next gets a tip as to their whereabouts is not to go after them himself, but to tip off the police. Kate and Jim are such a menace to society that the police would take them out with rocket-propelled grenades and then ask questions.

So that's this week's viewing. Pretty assorted, wouldn't you agree. But, be honest, do you really want to spend every night ens-



"Would you murder your husband for this man?" Hot pursuit, Friday, 10.15

conced in the same arm-chair? Why not get out and about? Why not take in some other form of culture. For instance, I just happen to know of a play that is showing at the Royal Cultural Centre from next Wednesday through to the following Tuesday, "Aria Da Capo" is not only excellent entertainment, but also stars your two favourite page five Saturday writers !!! Ah, ha, yes, yours truly, me, and smiling Marwan, he of the

shining face and acid pen, (or is the other way around?). My colleague above plays a homicidal shepherd while I am a frivolous clown who never has anything sensible to say and just loves the sound of his own voice. (But you knew that already, didn't you?). Oh, come on, it only lasts for an hour, 7.30-8.30, which means you'll be home in time for "Miss Marple", or whichever takes your fancy. See you in the stalls.

## Anti-porn crusader fights on after 21 laborious years

By Ronald Thomson  
Reuter

ARDLEIGH, England — After 21 years of combating sex and violence on television, the grandmotherly guardian of British morals says her battle has only just begun.

"The situation is growing to a crisis," declared Mary Whitehouse with a certain relief.

"This is a struggle that's not going to be won, but it's not going to be lost and it will go on as long as we have television in our homes."

Mrs. Whitehouse, 75 in June, is a doughty lady who has survived bitter hostility and outright ridicule in an untiring campaign to rid the home screen of bloody murder, savage beatings, frank sexual encounters and the standard

four-letter words.

Once ignored or treated with contempt by the media and the government, she has long graduated to become a household name in Britain with as many followers as critics.

She has been shouted down by students and shunned by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). She has fought through the courts, won debates with advocates of pornography — and managed a smile when called a "flat-footed, bespectacled shrew".

In fact, interviewed by Reuters at her pink-washed villa in the Essex countryside northeast of London, the dreaded Mary Whitehouse turned out to be a cheerful matron with an engaging line to self-mockery.

"The last thing I want is to be

presented, as someone that God has given a special job to do," she said, relaxing in an easy chair overlooking her rose garden. Her sudden bursts of laughter silenced the birds.

Trim-figured, grey-haired and sun-tanned, Mrs. Whitehouse clearly revels in seeing her role changed from a figure of fun to a maker of opinions with an influence beyond her earliest dreams.

Many see her as someone to be reckoned with in a society she regards as "corrupt and exploited".

What infuriates critics is her constant complaint about scenes of bloodshed, rape and "cutting people's heads off" on television. They call it realism.

What endears her to followers is a feeling that Mrs. Whitehouse will stand up to any humiliation or

indignity for the sake of middle-class standards. They call it decency.

Mrs. Whitehouse's National Viewers and Listeners Association (NVLA) was formed in 1964, at a time when the notion of "swinging London" was coming to the fore. It holds its 21st anniversary next Saturday.

The lady behind it all may not look like a forceful campaigner, but the jokey exterior conceals chunks of steel.

"I always felt that if we could hang on long enough, no matter what the attacks, no matter what the attempts to stop us might be, we would find something marvellous," she said.

"We had the feeling that the permissive society would become, dare I say it, the establishment of Britain."

"And then the young people would do what youngsters always do. They would rebel against the establishment."

A former schoolteacher with a husband and three grown-up sons, Mrs. Whitehouse argues that constant television violence helps create a violent society.

The NVLA has wide contacts among like-minded groups overseas, particularly in Australia, Africa, Western Europe and the United States.

According to a recent report reaching Mrs. Whitehouse from Dr. Thomas Radecki, an American colleague in an organisation called the International Coalition Against Violent Entertainment:

"Television violence has reached a new high in the United States. The increase, for a fourth successive year, has been steady and

dramatic, with 64 per cent of all U.S. programmes now featuring themes high in violence."

Mrs. Whitehouse says it is always just a matter of time before such shows are exported throughout the world and become standard fare on the home screen.

She believes her association's campaign has curbed excesses but still has a long way to go in turning television back to an entertainment that the whole family can enjoy without embarrassment.

"When historians of the next century look back, the late 50s, the 60s and the 70s will be seen as an aberration in our whole history as a nation," she mused.

"The permissive society was always foreign to the nature of the British people. It was a false and phoney situation."

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## Jazira wins Cup Winners Cup

By Munem Fakhoury  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al-Jazira Sport Club beat Amman Sport Club 1-0 (half time 1-0) Friday in the soccer match held at Amman stadium to win the Jordanian Cup winners Cup Soccer Championship.

The winning goal was scored by Tawfiq Al-Saheb when he received the ball from his teammate Firas Al-Kadi in the fifth minute of the match and sent it like a rocket in the net of Amman Club.

Amman missed scoring chances in the 3rd and 4th minutes when Ibrahim Sadi headed the ball to hit the side bar of the goal and after another minute Mutaz Al-Risha, Jazira goalkeeper, saved a ball kicked by Amman's player, Emad Kamel.

In the second half of the match, which was attended by Minister of Youth Hisham Sharara and President of Jordan Football Association Abdel Rauf Rawabdeh, Amman Club put solid pressure on Al-Jazira defence lines. And could stand against all Amman's counter attacks.

The Cup Winners Cup Championship was founded in Jordan during the 1981 soccer season to be played between the League champion and the champion of Jordan's Cup.

The first championship was won by Al-Faisaly Club who beat Al-Wihdat Club in the final, it was won again by Al-Faisaly who retained the cup by beating Al-Ramtha Club in the final of 1982.

soccer season, the third championship was won by Al-Ramtha Club who beat Al-Wihdat in the final while the fourth championship was won by Al-Faisaly Club beating Ramtha in the final of the 1984 soccer season.

At the end of Friday's match, which was run by referee Ahmad Bash, Hussein Suleiman and Abdul Karim Abu Ayash, the minister of youth handed the cup to Helmi Taha the captain of Al-Jazira Club at the presence of about 5000 spectators.



Winning goal... Khalid Abdel Fatah Amman's goalkeeper fails to prevent the ball of Al Jazira's Tawfiq Al Saheb (outside the picture) of entering his net. (Photo by Majed Abu-Sinan).

## Paulen, life president of IAAF, dies at 82

THE HAGUE (R) — Adriaan Paulen, honorary life President of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), who died Thursday at the age of 82, was an outspoken man who dedicated his life to athletics and other sports.

Paulen, who served as IAAF president from the Montreal Olympic Games in 1976 to 1981, died in hospital in Eindhoven, near his home, while undergoing an operation for a broken hip following a fall.

A colourful figure, Paulen loved driving fast cars and motor bikes. He took part in the 1926 Dutch Motorcycle Grand Prix at Assen but retired with engine trouble. He did, however, win several national championship titles.

At the age of 60, he broke a leg in a motorcycle race. In a crisp reply to criticism during a meeting of the Dutch Athletics Federation

of which he was president, Paulen said: "Allow me please in my own time, on my own bike, to break my own leg."

A mining engineer, who also took part in eight Monte Carlo rallies, Paulen was the first Dutchman to reach an Olympic games final.

At the age of 17 he finished fourth in 400 metres at the 1920 Antwerp games and four years later he beat Eric Liddell, the eventual gold medalist, in the quarter-finals of the Olympic 400 metres in Paris.

He never won an Olympic medal but set a world record for the 500 metres, then an official distance, in 1925.

Paulen stayed away from the 1936 Berlin games and said later: "I didn't like the situation in Nazi Germany. So I just chose to stay at home."



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## Norwich struggles for survival today

LONDON (R) — English Football League Cup winners Norwich City have called up teenage striker Robert Rosario for their vital relegation battle against Newcastle on the final Saturday of the English League soccer season today.

Rosario, 18, will be making only his third senior appearance of the season when he replaces veteran Mike Channon in the attack for a match Norwich must win if they are to secure their first division future.

With only two matches remaining, including Saturday's fixture against mid-table Newcastle, Norwich are in 19th position, five points ahead of Coventry who have three matches in hand.

A home defeat would almost certainly condemn Norwich to relegation alongside Stoke City and Sunderland, the team they beat 1-0 at Wembley in March when they won the League Cup. Norwich's final match is away to Chelsea.

Coventry, who have a reputation as the first division's escapist, will be at full-strength for the first time in four weeks for their visit to sixth-placed Southampton, who are desperately seeking to clinch a qualifying position for next season's UEFA Cup.

Southampton, who have doubts about defenders Mark Wright and Kevin Bond, are challenging Arsenal.

Chelsea, Sheffield Wednesday and Nottingham Forest in their bid to join the favourites Tottenham and Liverpool — if they fail to retain the European Cup — in the UEFA Cup in Europe next season.

Arsenal will complete a disappointing season at West Bromwich Albion, but all the other clubs involved have fixtures to complete before any issues can be settled.

Thus, the relegation struggle which still involves Watford, Luton, Ipswich and West Ham, with Norwich and Coventry, commands much attention.

Luton recall midfielders Ricky Hill and David Preece and striker Eneke Nwajobi for their home match against Leicester while Ipswich travel to doomed Sunderland and West Ham face a difficult trip to Sheffield Wednesday hoping goalkeeper Phil Parkes and midfielder Neil Orr have recovered from injuries suffered at Everton on Wednesday.

The newly-crowned champions visit Nottingham Forest Saturday and are likely to rest several players in preparation for their Football Association (F.A.) Cup final against Manchester United next week.

Manchester, away to Queen's Park Rangers, will be without England captain Bryan Robson with a strained hamstring.

## Soviet Grigory Veritchev wins European judo title

HAMAR, Norway (R) — Soviet heavyweight Grigory Veritchev cruised to victory at the 34th European Judo Championships Thursday, underlining the effect of the Eastern Europe's absence from last year's Los Angeles Olympics.

Veritchev's gold medal, which will be a warning to his rivals at this September's world championships in South Korea, was achieved with contemptuous ease over silver medalist Alexander van der Groubin of West Germany, the 1984 champion.

The Russian turned his opponent smartly onto his side with an ankle throw just one minute into

the bout and then held him down to take the gold.

Veritchev had looked well in command from the start of the competition, beating Britain's Elvis Gordon, Bulgarian Dimitar Zaprianov, Czechoslovak Vladimir Kocman and Hungarian László Tolnai without conceding a score.

On this evidence, only the Japanese heavyweights Yamashita and Saito are likely to be able to contain him.

The light heavyweight title was at last captured by the popular Belgian Robert van der Wally.

## Indian professional wins hearts, points

BAHRAIN (R) — An infant crying in the front row of the gallery, just before service on an important point, would upset most professional tennis players, to say the least.

But Indian "veteran" Vijay Amritraj, a daddy himself, is a human being first, and a professional second.

As an embarrassed father started carrying his wailing two-year-old daughter towards the door in the middle of a top-level Exhibition Tournament final here this week, Amritraj called out: "no, it's okay, let her stay".

Amritraj's doubles partner, Spanish star Jose Higuera, joined in the spirit of the thing. Instead of serving, he jogged over to the little girl and gave her a ball to keep her amused.

The trick worked a treat and the match went on, with one ball less but many cheers more for Amritraj, whose gesture had won the hearts of the crowd.

At 31, the gifted Indian has been closed to the top of the tennis tree for well over a decade, beating such greats as Rod Laver, Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe along the way.

Although he does not take the game quite so seriously any more, he's still ranked number 28 in the world and can still inspire awe in the best opponents.

He joined one of the world's most elite clubs last year when he downed McEnroe in a tournament in Cincinnati.

In case anyone thought that was a fluke, he also put Connors on an early flight home when he ousted the budding American 6-1, 7-6 in the first round of the Caesar's Palace Tournament in Las Vegas two weeks ago.

Amritraj, an imposing opponent at six foot three, with the dark colouring of a native of Madras, reached the Wimbledon quarter-finals twice, with eight years in between, in 1973 and 1981.

He and his two brothers, Ashok and Anand, long formed the backbone of India's Davis Cup team, reaching the finals in 1974. Their opponents were to be South Africans but the Indians did not play and the South Africans collected

the cup. But it's as much for his manners on and off the court, as well as his joviality, that Amritraj is respected and admired by fellow-players and spectators alike.

In the Exhibition Tournament here, there was more than just peanuts at stake — a total of \$50,000 up for grabs with only Amritraj, Higuera, Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia and Scott Davis of the U.S. taking part.

The big Indian, with just a little bit of paunch beginning to stretch his shirt, did not win a match but won a few thousand dollars as runner-up and a few hundred friends, one of them the father of a tired two-year-old girl.

Amritraj might have played better outside the converted basketball dome where the tournament took place. Outside, the temperature was a humid 90-odd degrees, not unlike Madras. Inside, the air-conditioning had spectators clapping just to keep warm.

The Indian delighted the watching sheikhs, expatriate European businessmen, and locally-based Indians with his antics, once staggering around the court in an apparent daze after being hit on the cheek by a loose ball.

He laughed off ludicrous line calls from local tennis players, acting as linesmen, who had obviously never seen balls served at half that speed.

During a delay as ballboys fumbled to open up the new balls, Amritraj and Davis brought roars of laughter when they decided to play a point without a ball. It was mine at its best, with the Indian perhaps using some of the acting technique he learned when he appeared as an agent in the 1983 "James Bond" film Octopussy.

Amritraj lives close to Hollywood, in Los Angeles, but maintains close links with India. He is married to a Sri Lankan and has one young son.

Commenting on his winding down from the top tournaments, he told reporters in Bahrain: "I enjoy myself now much more, with time to relax and enjoy exhibition matches like this one. Four years ago, it was life and death."

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Telecommunications Corporation announces the extension of the closing date for Tender No. Supp 29/85/6 (Calibration Units) up to Thursday dated 23rd May 1985, 14.00 hours.

Eng. Moh'd Shahid Ismail  
Director General

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## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.2310/20	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3795/3805	Canadian dollars
	3.1270/90	West German marks
	3.5300/30	Dutch guilders
	2.6340/70	Swiss francs
	62.90/95	Belgian francs
	9.5300/5400	French francs
	1992.0/5.0	Italian lire
	252.25/40	Japanese yen
	9.0700/0800	Swedish crowns
	9.0025/0125	Norwegian crowns
	11.2225/2325	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	313.10/313.60	U.S. dollars

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities closed firm, helped initially by the 10-point gain on Wall Street Thursday and further supported by buying for the new week account, dealers said. The FTSE 100 share index at 1530 GMT Friday was up 4.3 at 1310.6.

British Telecom firmed 2p to 157 following news it has agreed in principle to buy a 51 per cent stake in Mital Corp which jumped 15p to 600. Other electricals were mostly easier after the news with Plessey at 170 and STC at 190, both down 10p.

British Aerospace firmed 10p to 418. Its 146.8 million share offer was oversubscribed with the basis of allocation expected on May 13. Golds and North American shares were mixed.

Government bonds gained around 1/16 point by the close on the back of firmer sterling and moved further ahead in after hours trading on the absence of a "tap" issue.

Cadbury-Schweppes added 1p to 162 following reports that it has agreed a £22.4 million bid for Sodastream. Anglia TV, which held a 22.4 per cent stake, firmed 15p to 153.

Composite insurance continued their advance following Royal's first quarter figures Thursday. Royal firmed 7p to 618 and General Accident rose 5p to 600 ahead of results next week.

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

## FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Many opportunities are present today if you keep alert and wide awake to up-to-date means and methods whereby you can add to your present success.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) An ideal day and evening to join with many friends at projects that are mutually interesting. Cultivate new friends as well.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A good day to get into community work that you enjoy. A bigwig will be impressed by you and something fine can come of this.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Listen to suggestions given you whereby you can advance in life, but pick out those best suited to your needs.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Try to step out of that rut you are in and use more modern methods in the business world and gain more benefits.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Contact advisors whose views are quite different from your own. You get the right slant on how to become more successful.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study into new ways of becoming more efficient at your regular line of work. Co-workers could also give you good suggestions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make appointments with congenials for the amusements mutually liked. Take your mate along with you and feel happier.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you think more about the welfare of kin, there can be greater accord at home. Invite new acquaintances in and make good friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can express yourself very well today, so contact as many persons as you can and state your aims.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study your holdings and do whatever will improve them and you can also add to them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be enthused and go after your personal wishes with vim and vigor and gain them. Be most careful in motion today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A good day to show that you have a sense of humor. Be happier with your mate by your side.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she is apt to do things differently from others, so give free expression since it is this very difference that can make for much success upon reaching adulthood and throughout the lifetime. Your progeny will be considered ahead of the times and will be a pioneer.

## THE Daily Crossword by Jo E. Lundy

ACROSS

- Son of Noah
- Pied
- Sweet potato
- Alti
- Shaped like an egg
- Time periods
- Bedroom
- Green-cutters
- Land a hand
- Lines of sight
- Slit
- Down: part
- Short approach
- to the green
- Singer Eydie
- Some actors
- Outer: part
- Term of affection
- Peron
- Put away
- To and
- Hence
- shobol (noel)
- Ship
- Hangs on to
- Bar connecting
- segon wheels
- among
- ladies
- Kind of verb: abbe
- Practical one
- Fruit
- Quibble over fine points
- Shore
- Adolescent
- Declan
- A Gardner
- Eng. river
- 11th
- Wild plum

DOWN

- Make a sharp return
- Mate
- Coup d'
- Woman's head-year of old
- Shine
- Ruse, ruler
- Handle roughly
- Lab vessel
- Pardon
- "Of true wood, of"
- Region
- Martin or Moore
- Draft org.
- Salem's state: abbe
- Possessive
- Footstool
- Nerve
- Le --, Pt. port
- Nathaniel
- Eight: part
- Direct attention
- Pl. vine
- Wear away
- Amalope
- Egg-shaped
- Like some stones
- Hash marks
- Cut
- Go astray
- "Strike while the iron"
- Jan. city
- Alphabet sequence
- Sword
- Author Haley
- Funny Johnson
- Ringle
- Christiana
- Biblical you
- Fleming or Smith

## Greece promotes tourism

By Samir Chawi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Greece became a dynamic member of the group of countries organising international tourist exhibitions when it made an impressive start earlier this month with the 1st Philoxenia exhibition held in Thessaloniki, Greece's second largest city.

The exhibition was organised by Hellespo, an agency with worldwide prestige in the area of fair organisation on international standards, in cooperation with the National Tourist Organisation of Greece and other organisations.

It covered a functional area of

30,000 square metres with the participation of almost the entire Greek tourism offices, 12 foreign tourist organisations and many other international groups specialising or promoting tourism.

The total number of exhibitors exceeded 160 among which were the Ministry of Tourism of Syria, the Hungarian Tourist Organisation, the Italian Tourist Organisation, the Ministry of Tourism of Romania, the Egyptian Tourist Organisation, the French Tourist Organisation as well as the U.S. and many other Western and Eastern European countries.

Philoxenia received wide global publicity as tens of journalists

from 18 foreign countries as well as commercial visitors from abroad converged to Thessaloniki.

Philoxenia will be held annually and its success earlier this month proves that it is truly the right and unequalled forum in the area to promote Jordan tourism through the participation of the Ministry of Information, Culture, Tourism and Antiquities or through the participation of Alia — The Royal Jordanian Airlines.

Philoxenia also offers Jordanians with all touristic information concerning not only Greece but also many other countries worldwide.

## British Airways profits grow

LONDON (R) — State-owned British Airways has reported a nine per cent jump in annual profits to £202 million (\$244 million) and said it was hoping to be sold into private hands before next March.

The airline's traffic was growing worldwide, its debts had been reduced, its cargo business was thriving and costs were under tight control, Chairman Lord King told a news conference.

It was now a business of considerable value. "We look forward to the time when the shares of British Airways can be quoted," he said.

Government plans to float the carrier on the stock exchange in February were wrecked by deal-over a U.S. lawsuit against it arising from the collapse of cut-price airline Laker Airways.

Negotiations were continuing in the anti-trust case, Lord King said.

"We are progressing along quite steadily and sensibly."

Asked about a new date for the flotation, he said: "I would like to see it happen in this financial year."

British Airways' pre-tax profits in 1984-85, its financial year to March 31, were up from £185 million (\$224 million) the previous year.

Lord King said British Airways would soon begin to replace some or all of its fleet of 16 Boeing 747 Jumbos, now 15 years old.

But he said the company's record in recovering from near-bankruptcy in 1982 showed it was healthy enough to raise the necessary funds for the re-equipment programme through the banking system.

As the Laker case was under judicial consideration, Lord King would not predict when it would

be concluded. Laker liquidators are suing 12 major airlines, accusing them of breaking U.S. anti-trust laws by conspiring to price it out of business in 1982.

Negotiations on an out-of-court settlement, which industry sources say could amount to \$65 million, have been going on for months.

Lord King said the co-defendants had agreed on a joint proposal, but he stressed that a final deal would not immediately open the way for British Airways' flotation. It would take two months to ratify a deal, and three to prepare the flotation, he said.

The airline is not the only major British business in line for privatisation. The government is currently selling its half share in British Aerospace, and it has also announced plans to sell the huge British Gas Corporation next year.

## More banks merge in UAE

DUBAI (R) — First Gulf Bank said Thursday its shareholders have approved a takeover of Ras Al Khaimah Bank of the Arab Coast, in the latest of a string of government-backed bank rescues in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

A shareholders' meeting empowered Ajman-based First Gulf's board to conclude the deal, with terms still to be finalised. Banking sources said they expected it to be effected through a share swap rather than an outright purchase.

First Gulf's directors would study the latest balance sheet and auditors' report on Bank of the Arab Coast and the two banks would agree on a sharp conversion rate, they added.

Bank of the Arab Coast, 28 per

cent owned by Kuwaitis, is one of the smallest of the UAE's 20 local banks, and its size was the main reason for the takeover, its general manager Mr. Henri Derx told Reuters.

Its shareholders empowered the board to merge with another UAE bank this week.

The UAE central bank, which supports the merger, has sought consolidation of the seven-embirate federation's smaller banks to strengthen them in the face of bad debt problems and slower business.

There have already been three bank mergers in the emirates of Dubai and Abu Dhabi this year.

With the latest merger, First Gulf Bank will increase its capital and reserves to 300 million dir-

hams (\$81 million) from 219 million (\$60 million) and acquire branches in two emirates — Dubai and Ras Al Khaimah.

It currently has only branch in Ajman, but has applied for central bank approval to open new ones in Abu Dhabi and Sharjah.

First Gulf is one of the most profitable UAE banks — it earned 18 million dirhams (\$5 million) last year, down from 21 million (\$5.7 million) in 1983.

The sources said the merger could increase the equity share held by UAE nationals. On paper they already have a majority, but some UAE-registered shareholders are companies with majority Kuwaiti ownership, so that Kuwaitis indirectly have control, the sources said.

## EC clears major budget hurdle

STRASBOURG (R) — The European Community (EC) cleared a major obstacle in efforts to get a working budget for this year when its parliament Thursday passed the bulk of the 1985 budget proposals already approved by member governments.

The European Parliament had rejected the budget in December because the 26 billion European Currency Units (ECUs) (\$19 billion) expenditure proposals were below foreseen commitments.

The 10 governments have since agreed to provide the subsidies needed to bridge the budget gap, estimated at some two billion ECUs (\$1.5 billion).

The shortfall resulted from the exhaustion of the Community's main source of revenue, a one per cent share of Value Added Tax (VAT) levies. This is to be increased to 1.4 per cent from next year.

But the European Parliament Thursday refused to approve a

final expenditure figure, saying a more realistic sum should emerge at a second budget reading.

Parliamentarians say that such a figure can only be agreed once agriculture ministers have finally fixed 1985 farm prices.

They also want higher spending on food aid and other projects agreed which could bring total spending to a record 28.5 billion ECUs (\$20 billion) compared with last year's 27 billion ECUs (\$16.5 billion).

## Arab energy conference calls for more planning

ALGIERS (OPECNA) — The third Arab energy conference has called for more planning in energy production, consumption and manufacturing within the Arab World.

In recommendations following the five-day conference here which ended Thursday, the conference also called for a linkage between planning for energy and for the economy as a whole.

"The Arab World needs to develop a reliable data base from first-hand sources," it stressed.

The conference also asked the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) to develop the Arab Centre for Energy Studies to serve all Arab countries — producers and non-producers.

It requested more funds for development in general "and energy development in particular".

The conference recommended that the Arab World should diversify its economy and develop a base for petrochemical and other related industries.

Non-oil sectors should also be developed in order to achieve global and Arab economic development, including a free exchange of trade and manpower, it also recommended.

The conference noted that Arab exports of new products, especially petrochemical and oil products, were faced with "many res-

trictions" by industrialised countries.

It therefore called on those countries to reduce protectionism. The conference also called for cooperation between Arab and other developing countries "bearing in mind that the Arab World is part of the Third World".

Earlier a French energy expert warned here that another sharp fall in oil prices would bring about a drastic reduction in world crude production capacity, leading to "an oil shock" a few years from now.

Addressing the conference, Mr. Pierre Despairies, chairman of the Institut Français du Pétrole, said that governments and oil companies of the industrialised countries were no longer supporting Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) efforts to stabilise the market and prevent a drop in oil prices.

He predicted that after 1990, oil prices would increase due to difficulties and lead time required to renew proven reserves.

He also called upon industrialised countries to avoid protectionism with regard to refined oil and industrial products from

the Third World by jointly negotiating reasonably import quotas. He said North Sea oil producers should restrict their output and discounting practices otherwise prices would not achieve stability.

There would be a cycle of collapses and sudden rises, he said.

Meanwhile an expert of OAPEC told the conference that the refining capacity in the Arab World this year would total 250 million tonnes compared to 45 million tonnes in 1958 and 95 million tonnes in 1970.

Mr. Zuhair Kassabally said that the share of the Arab World's refining capacity was only a "mere" 6.6 per cent of the world total.

He said that the annual growth rate of products consumption reached 12.7 per cent during the 1975-80 period, but declined to 9.2 per cent in 1983.

According to Mr. Kassabally, the average growth of petroleum product consumption was expected to decline to 6.5 per cent during 1983-90, due to the economic recession.

He estimated total consumption of products for 1990 at 150 million tonnes, from the 112 million tonnes for this year.

While some Arab countries would have a net surplus of 100 million tonnes of products "in the coming years", other non-oil producers in the Arab World would face a deficit of about seven million tonnes a year, he added.

## Libya lends Morocco \$100m

BEIRUT (R) — Libya has granted Morocco a \$100 million loan for wheat purchases, the official Libyan News Agency JANA said Thursday.

The agency, monitored in Beirut, said the agreement was signed in Rabat Wednesday by the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank and the Moroccan Bank of Foreign Trade. It did not disclose loan terms.

JANA quoted Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi as saying

Libya offered the loan because the United States had refused to sell wheat to Morocco following a Moroccan-Libyan unity agreement signed last August.

Meanwhile, Morocco's cereals harvest this year is estimated at 4.5 million tonnes, 23 per cent better than last year despite a prolonged drought, Moroccan Agriculture Minister Othman Demnati was quoted Thursday as saying in Rabat.

The Moroccan News Agency MAP said Mr. Demnati told a cabinet meeting Wednesday the improvement was expected despite drought in the east and south of the country.

Last year production of the three main cereals — wheat, barley and maize — was 3.66 million tonnes and over two million tonnes had to be imported to cover domestic consumption.

## China to float Eurobonds despite unpaid old debts

FRANKFURT (R) — The Bank of China is to go ahead later this month with its first bond issue on a European market since 1949, despite opposition from holders of pre-revolutionary bonds repudiated by the communist government, bond market sources said Thursday.

They said interest was running high in the new issue by the state bank, expected to be a straight Eurobond of around 200 million marks (\$64 million). The Frankfurt-based Deutsche Bank has won the mandate to be lead manager against stiff opposition, the sources said.

Deutsche Bank has not confirmed that it will underwrite the China issue, but spokesmen for the old bondholders have already written to it outlining their claims.

"Our view is that they (China) should not be issuing bonds at all while they are in default," said Mr. Michael Gough, director of the London-based Council of Foreign Bond Holders.

Mr. Gough said council could not take legal action to attempt to prevent China issuing debt in marks, but he hoped to persuade Deutsche to mention in the prospectus that some bonds issued prior to the 1949 revolution have yet to be redeemed.

"I think it would be right that any prospective investor at least has all the facts before him and knows that he's lending to somebody that hasn't paid back his old debt," Mr. Gough said.

The government of the Peoples' Republic of China has consistently maintained that it has no responsibility for debt incurred before 1949.

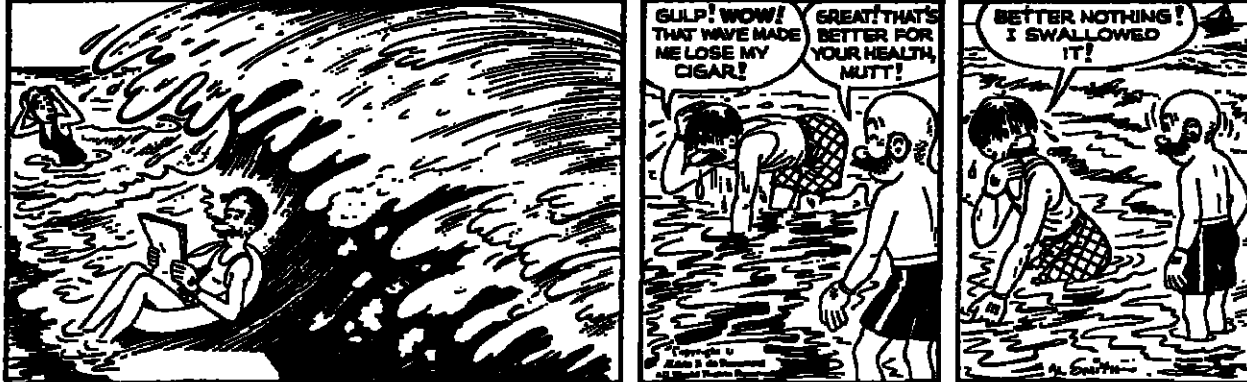
## Egyptians encouraged to seek jobs overseas

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has taken new steps to encourage workers to seek jobs abroad following a drop in remittances from expatriate workers in Gulf Arab countries. The measures, announced by the higher committee for policies, ease the issue of overseas work permits and offer up to 10 years leave of absence for public sector workers wanting to work abroad. They follow reports that Gulf Arab states plan to reduce their foreign workforces because of lower oil revenues. Remittances from the estimated three million Egyptians working abroad are the country's main source of hard currency, officially estimated at about \$3.6 billion a year.

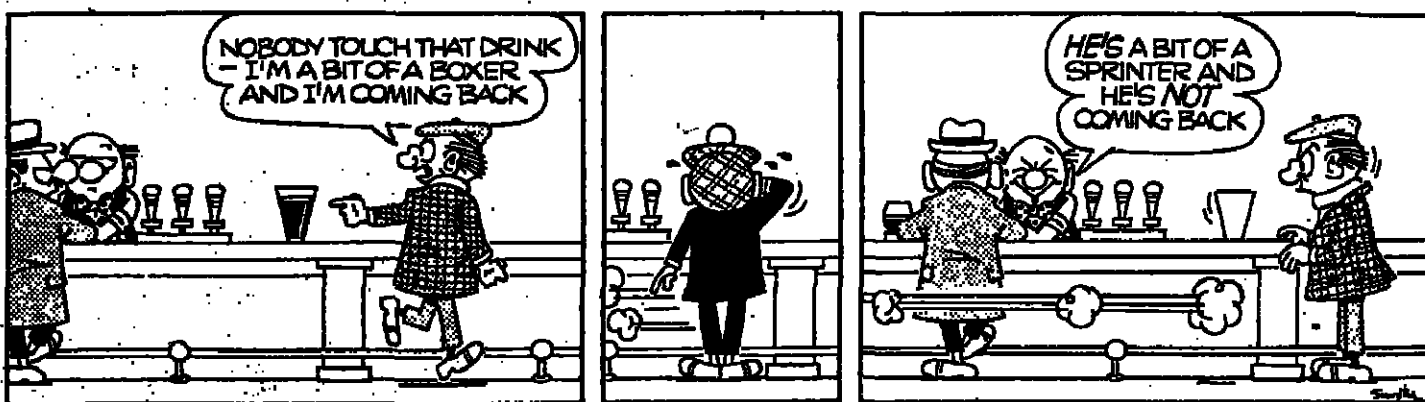
## Peanuts



## Mutt 'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MYHRE

CRIBB

ATTREY

RUVESS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CROWN STAIR GIBLET MALTED  
Answer: A middle-age spread is simply this—  
A WAIST OF TIME



# Soviet victory celebrations in Moscow end with fireworks

MOSCOW (R) — Tanks and rockets, soldiers and veterans paraded through Red Square to mark the defeat of Nazi Germany 40 years ago, then sombre speeches and solemn ceremonies gave way to festive fireworks.

The 50-minute military display, which included SS-21 short-range nuclear missiles previously unseen by Western observers, was watched from atop Lenin's Mausoleum by Communist Party Chief Mikhail Gorbachev and the rest of the Kremlin leadership.

Many Western ambassadors also attended, including those of Britain, France and other NATO members. But the U.S. envoy stayed away, maintaining a boycott of Soviet military parades in force since the intervention in Afghanistan in 1979.

In an opening speech broadcast across Eastern Europe, Defence Minister Sergei Sokolov said the West was attempting to belittle the wartime role of the Soviet Union.

Other speeches and commentaries delivered by politicians and veterans alike during two days of ceremony dwelt on Soviet achievements, stressing the key role troops on the Eastern Front played in defeating Nazi Germany.

Thursday Red Square event followed a wreath-laying at the tomb of the unknown soldier on Wednesday and a rally at which Mr. Gorbachev made his first major public address since taking office.

In a toughly-worded speech, he accused Washington of threatening world peace and hit out at Western leaders who he said were seeking the restoration of territories lost after the war.

But he tempered his anti-Western remarks with an appeal for a return to détente and sent a letter to President Reagan saying Moscow was ready to work with the United States to prevent nuclear war.

In a brief toast delivered behind closed doors after the parade, he called for "patient and constructive dialogue" to solve international problems.

Assessing his speech, some Western diplomats said they were surprised by the force of his attack

on Reagan. Others said he merely summed up the Soviet Union's view of the war and post-war events, presenting a "familiar distorted picture."

Mr. Gorbachev was too young to fight in the war but nine of his fellow Politburo members saw military or other service.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Moscow Averell Harriman has been given a prestigious Soviet war award for his work in promoting cooperation between the two nations during the World War II.

The Order of the Patriotic War was conferred on Mr. Harriman, now 93, to mark the 40th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe, the Official News Agency Tass said.

Mr. Harriman served in Moscow from October 1943 to February 1946 and regularly visited Moscow afterwards. He was a trouble-shooter for several U.S. presidents.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said the award was an acknowledgement of his role as former President Franklin D. Roosevelt's representative in wide-ranging private contacts with the Soviet leadership under Stalin.

Last week the same award was given to Italian President Sandro Pertini for his contribution to "the struggle against Fascism."

## Prague hails Soviet role

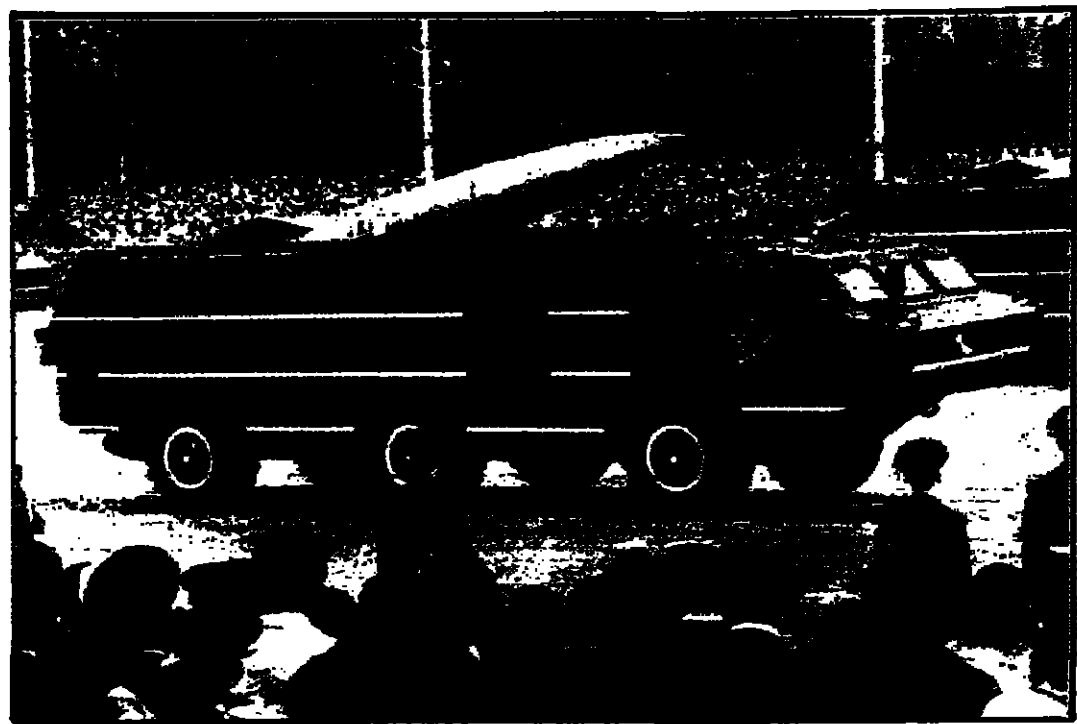
Czechoslovakia Thursday hailed the Soviet Union's "decisive" role in defeating Nazi Germany, echoing the view of Moscow's allies during 40th anniversary celebrations and military parades.

But non-aligned Yugoslavia paid equal tribute to the Soviet Red Army and the Western allies in the defeat of Hitler.

Czechoslovak President and Communist Party leader Gustav Husak reviewed a military march-past in the Letna Plan, a vast parade ground near the Sparta Prague soccer stadium.

State television showed thousands of spectators lining Prague's streets as MIG jets and helicopter gunships flying red flags flew overhead.

Armoured cars, mobile rocket-launchers, anti-aircraft missiles and thousands of soldiers filed past as Defence Minister Milan Vlachek hailed the "decisive role" of the Soviet Union in World War II.



A Soviet SS-21 tactical short-range nuclear missile is shown for the first time in Red Square at the Victory Day parade in Moscow Thursday (AP wirephoto).

## Managua denies attacks inside Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — Nicaragua Friday denied that its troops had chased guerrillas into Honduras last week.

"We deny this type of information", Nicaragua's Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera told reporters here.

Hundreds of Honduran soldiers have been sent to the border with Nicaragua and Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barmiza has accused Managua of launching "an offensive of hostility."

Journalists who visited the Honduran border province of El Paraíso said Nicaraguan troops had fired mortars at the town of Arenales, seven kilometres from the Nicaraguan border. Rebel sources said 38 people had been killed.

It was the largest incursion reported since war erupted between the U.S.-backed rebels and the left-wing government in Managua more than three years ago.

Mr. Talavera was visiting the Honduran capital as part of a tour of Central America to explain the effects of the U.S. trade embargo imposed against Nicaragua last

week.

"What is happening is that Nicaragua is legitimately defending its territory against mercenary forces at the service of the United States," Mr. Talavera said.

The border area between Nicaragua and Honduras has been turned into a war zone by the United States.

The Reagan administration, which accuses Nicaragua of trying to export Marxist revolution to the rest of Central America, has backed an army of 15,000 Nicaraguan rebels. Some have set up bases in Honduras.

Honduras, Washington's stalwart ally in Central America, has harboured the guerrillas but recently military officials expressed concern that their presence could lead to war with Nicaragua.

Mr. Talavera, who arrived Wednesday from Guatemala to discuss the embargo with Honduran leaders, said Nicaragua had found new markets in Europe and would continue trading with Mexico and Canada to offset the loss of its U.S. exports market.

Meanwhile controversy is growing in Europe over the U.S.

trade ban on Nicaragua as the country's president, Daniel Ortega, winds up an aid-seeking tour of mainly East Bloc European countries.

Leftist members of the European Parliament were narrowly defeated Thursday in an attempt to seek special European Community economic aid to Nicaragua to offset the ban.

The trade embargo was imposed by President Reagan after the U.S. Congress rejected his request for \$14 million of aid to rebels fighting to overthrow Nicaragua's leftist government.

Communist, Socialist and Ecology parties united in seeking Community help for Nicaragua efforts to resist the sanctions. Some parliamentarians described the embargo as a move to topple the Sandinist government by inflicting famine on the population.

But the centre-right majority pushed through an alternative text urging the Sandinists to "resume dialogue with the country's democratic opposition without delay so that national reconciliation can remove any justification for outside interference."

## U.S. rejects Gorbachev's charges

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. government has rejected Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's charge that it is a potential war menace and also said the Soviet Union was more to blame than the West for the outbreak of World War II.

Mr. Gorbachev has said on the 40th anniversary of the World War II defeat of Nazi Germany that "American imperialism is at the forward edge of the war menace to mankind."

Asked about the charge, State Department Spokesman Edward Djerejian said, "We disagree fundamentally with a number of Mr. Gorbachev's assertions about U.S. foreign policy."

Mr. Djerejian also rejected Mr. Gorbachev's implied criticism of President Reagan's visit to a German war cemetery and Mr. Gorbachev's statement that Western

appeasement of Adolf Hitler led to World War II.

Mr. Gorbachev did not name Mr. Reagan but said some leaders at the Bonn economic summit last week "were ready to forget or even justify the SS atrocities."

Mr. Djerejian said: "We reject the implied criticism in the speech that the president and other Western leaders at the Bonn summit somehow countenanced the actions of Hitler's SS or were responsible for the outbreak of World War II."

"Whatever mistakes French and British leaders committed in the 1930s, they don't compare with the encouragement Hitler received from the (1939) Soviet-German non-aggression pact."

"France and Britain declared war on Hitler because of the inva-

sion of Poland. The Soviet Union joined Hitler in that attack on Poland."

But Mr. Djerejian noted Mr. Gorbachev also said that the World War II alliance between Moscow and the West proved that socially opposite nations could work together.

Mr. Djerejian said Mr. Reagan made the same point in a letter to Mr. Gorbachev which said the alliance "demonstrated that despite our differences we can join together in successful common efforts."

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has written to President Reagan to commemorate allied unity in the defeat over Nazi Germany and said Moscow is ready to cooperate in preventing a nuclear war and eliminating nuclear arms.

## S. Africa drifting into civil war, paper says

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A South African newspaper said Friday the country seemed to be drifting into civil war as police reported fresh outbreaks of black unrest which has claimed over 150 lives this year.

The Cape Times said in an editorial that the recent deaths of two blacks who had been detained by police were potential disasters for South Africa's international standing.

"As unrest carries on unabated in the black townships, South Africa seems to be drifting steadily into a state of civil war, stumbling from one horrific incident to another," it said.

"Nothing the (President P.W.) Botha administration is able to do seems to check the current malaise. Violence has become endemic," it added.

The Cape Times called for an inquiry into the deaths of trade unionist Andries Raditsela and student leader Siphosiso Mofokeng, both of whom were held by police before they died.

"The country cannot afford another Biko affair in which the people who might be held responsible for the death of a detainee are allowed to get away with it," the paper said.

The 1977 death in police detention of black consciousness leader Steve Biko was a factor which led to an international arms embargo against Pretoria.

A police spokesman Friday reported numerous incidents of overnight rioting across the country but said no deaths had occurred.

A post-mortem on black trade unionist Andries Raditsela Thursday showed he died of brain injuries after being held in police custody at the weekend, his union said.

Mr. Raditsela's death has sparked a furor among South African trade unions, fuelling tension as rioting against the country's apartheid policies continues to sweep its black townships.

The riots have spread to the sprawling township of Soweto on the outskirts of Johannesburg. Five more deaths were reported in rioting Thursday despite a tough police and army presence, particularly in the strife-torn eastern part of Cape province.

Security officials told Reuters the Pope had been advised to keep his crowd appearances to a minimum but his hectic programme will take him to many public events throughout the two countries.

Belgian newspapers have referred to a climate of "terrorist psychosis" as edgy police mount extra armed guards near potential guerrilla targets following a wave of mainly anti-NATO bombings, one of which last week killed two Brussels firemen.

An anonymous poster purporting to offer a reward for killing the Pope was nailed to a church door at Brasschaat near the Dutch border last month.

At the southern Belgian shrine of Beauraing, to be visited by the Pope on his 65th birthday on May 18, vandals broke the hands off a statue of the Virgin Mary.

Church officials expect tumultuous crowds to greet the Pope on his travels in the two overwhelmingly Catholic countries despite such isolated hostile incidents and an undercurrent of criticism of the visit by some religious and secular groups.

Belgium's humanist studies centre has accused Pope John Paul of confusing temporal and spiritual matters and attacked what it said was his characterisation of atheists as incomplete human beings capable of causing wars and other atrocities.

Because it is partly a state visit and partly a pastoral one, the Pope's tour will be paid for both

## France carries out huge nuclear test in Pacific

WELLINGTON (R) — France has set off a huge nuclear explosion at its Mururoa Atoll testing ground in the South Pacific, New Zealand government seismologists said Friday.

The blast, with an estimated yield of 150 kilotonnes, was probably the biggest since the French underground test programme began in the French Polynesia 10 years ago, they added.

The explosion, monitored at 2038 GMT on Thursday by New Zealand scientists at Rarotonga in the Cook Islands, was big enough to register on seismographs in New Zealand, about 7,000 kilometres away.

The previous biggest French test recorded was one of 140 kilotonnes in July 1979.

Blasts of 150 kilotonnes (the

equivalent of 150,000 tonnes of TNT) are the maximum allowed under an international treaty covering underground tests, the director of the New Zealand National Radiation Laboratory, Andrew McEwan, told Reuters.

"It is certainly a big explosion — a weapon rather than a trigger device," seismologist Murray Lowry said.

The test followed a blast of 10 kilotonnes on May 1. It was the 69th since underground testing began at Mururoa in June 1975.

New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange described the latest blast as deplorable.

"All the countries of the South Pacific are absolutely opposed to nuclear testing in their region and have said so on many occasions," he said in a statement.

## Hernu arrives in N. Caledonia

NOUMEA (R) — French Defence Minister Charles Hernu arrived in New Caledonia Friday amid tight police security to study measures for reinforcing his country's military presence in the troubled territory.

Mr. Hernu stepped ashore from the nuclear-powered submarine Rubis after a helicopter flight took him offshore from the international airport at Nontout north of the capital, officials said.

His arrival follows the worst violence in the French Pacific territory since indigenous Kanaks (Melanesians) began campaigning for independence last November.

A Kanak youth was shot dead and 95 people were injured during street fighting in Noumea on Wednesday. The fighting between white settlers, Kanaks and police triggered a constitutional crisis when moderate deputies representing the Kanaks Thursday quit the Territorial Assembly.

Officials said Mr. Hernu's visit was not related to the latest violence which prompted the Noumea authorities to reimpose a curfew.

Mr. Hernu immediately plunged into talks on defence with special envoy Edgard Pisani sent by Paris in December to try to mediate between Kanaks and settlers on the future of the territory.

Police reported no trouble when the Rubis arrived despite publicly expressed concern by pro-independence Kanak parties about French reinforcement of its military base.

Mr. Hernu's visit follows a trip to the territory late last month by chief-of-staff General Jeannou Lacaze who said work had started on upgrading installations at the Noumea military base.

France has decided to extend the port and lengthen the airport to accommodate Jaguar fighter planes. It will also increase its troop strength to 4,500 from 3,000 to ensure a permanent strategic presence in the region.

The government has announced new proposals for the future of the territory, postponing a referendum on independence until after the 1986 parliamentary elections in France.

But both the main right-wing settler party and the militant Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) have criticised the Paris plans and threatened to boycott elections in August for four regional councils to replace the assembly.

## Punjab politician killed, protests erupt

NEW DELHI (R) — Sikh extremists shot dead an opposition leader in India's Punjab state, sparking a riot in which one person was stabbed to death and several others were injured.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) reported that an indefinite curfew was clamped on the town of Hoshiarpur and police reinforcements rushed to the area after former parliamentarian Balbir Singh was shot at his farm on the town's outskirts.

Balbir Singh, a Hindu and president of the Punjab section of the Lok Dal Party, was hit by several

bullets and killed instantly, the news agency said.

His murder followed attacks on several Punjab leaders of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's party in the past two weeks.

PTI said rioters defied the Hoshiarpur curfew by setting shops on fire. One person was stabbed to death and several others were injured by angry crowds roaming the streets.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was quoted by PTI as saying in a message to Balbir Singh's family that the attack deserved to be

condemned by everyone who had India's national interests at heart.

PTI quoted official reports as saying Balbir Singh was shot at point blank range by extremists armed with automatic weapons.

The victim's party is a mainly rural organisation of peasants and farmers which was seen as Mr. Gandhi's main opposition during last December's national elections.

PTI described the situation in Hoshiarpur after the killing as tense, with groups of angry people gathered on street corners.

## Legionnaires' Disease claims 34 lives

LONDON (R) — The death toll in the world's deadliest recorded outbreak of Legionnaires' Disease rose to 34 and electricity authorities said they would check power station cooling towers as a possible cause of spreading it.

A woman in her seventies died of the disease in a hospital in the central England industrial town of Stafford, where the outbreak is centred, a state health service spokesman said.

Fears that the disease would spread further have been heightened by single deaths in the western city of Bristol and in Portsmouth on the south coast. In Stafford, 32 people have died.

The Central Electricity Generating Board said it would examine power station cooling towers for a possible link.

Scientists have said they believe the Stafford outbreak was caused by bacteria carried in water vapour from air conditioning cooling towers of the hospital into out-patients' clinic.

But a government expert has said the Generating Board's own cooling towers could be the cause of the spread.

Health spokesmen said five more people had been taken to hospitals in Stafford suffering from the disease, bringing total cases there to more than 150.

## Parts of Thai-Kampuchean border fenced off

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnamese troops have fenced off parts of the Thai-Kampuchean border with barbed wire and land mines, Thai military officers said Friday.

They said the move to seal the border was aimed at preventing defections and keeping Kampuchean guerrillas from moving deeper into the Kampuchean interior.

According to unconfirmed reports Vietnam has completed plan-

ning land mines and laying barbed wire along a 70-kilometre stretch opposite the Thai district towns of Aranyaprathet and Ta Phraya.

The officers said the barrier had reduced the number of Vietnamese and Kampuchean government troops crossing the border to surrender to Thai authorities. But it had not stopped the guerrilla infiltrations along other parts of the 720 kilometre long

Kampuchean border.

Thai military officers said operations to drive out Vietnamese troops who had intruded into Thailand were continuing Friday.

Since May 4 Thai troops backed by artillery and airstrikes have been trying to force out up to 1,200 Vietnamese troops dug into mountains along the south eastern border with Kampuchea. At least eight Thai soldiers have been killed and 27 wounded.

CANBERRA (R) — Australian bird trapper Ray Ackroyd has dumped 200 dead cockatoos on the lawns of Parliament House after horrified viewers watched him bludgeon them to death on television. Ackroyd said his macabre protest was to press for a change in the law to allow the export of live birds, to stop them being slaughtered by farmers. "I think it's the most despicable act of cruelty anyone has ever had to do," Ackroyd told reporters. He was shown on television in the Australian bush crushing the birds' heads with a block of wood as they struggled under a net. The method of killing is legal as long as the birds die instantly.

Siamese Twins die after separation

BOLOGNA, Italy (R) — Siamese Twin boys separated by surgeons in a 10-hour operation Wednesday died early Thursday morning, doctors said. The twins, Fausto and Davide, were born joined at the head on Dec. 28 last year. Surgeons said Fausto, the weaker of the two, was twice revived with cardiac massage after suffering heart attacks during the operation which ended last Wednesday night. He died just over an hour after leaving the theatre. Davide died an hour later. Plastic surgeons had worked with the medical team to rebuild the infants' scalps with skin taken from their thighs.

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### GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
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**THE TALE OF THE KING OF HEARTS**

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for those hands we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column. North-South vulnerable. South deals.

<b>NORTH</b>			
♠ K J			
♥ Void			
♦ J 10 6 4			
♣ Q 10 8 5 3 2			
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>	
♠ Q 10 3		♠ 9 6 5 4	
♥ Q 5 2		♥ A J 10 9 6 4 3	
♦ K 8 5 2		♦ 7	
♣ 7		♣ 6	
<b>SOUTH</b>			
♠ A 7 2			
♥ K 8 7			
♦ A 9 3			
♣ A K J 4			

The bidding:  
1 ♠ 1 ♥ 2 ♠ 3 ♥  
3 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass  
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead: Seven of ♠.

"Being a king isn't all it's cut out to be," complained the King of Hearts. "For every King of Hearts in 'Alice in Wonderland' there's a real life Louis Capet or Charles I. Even at bridge more often than not we fall under the axe of the ace. However, when our cause is just, we live on in the books on the game. "Why, just the other day my head went on the block, but in rather unusual circumstances. Our side was jousting against a strong team